# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-004
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5 January 1996

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-96-004* *5 January 1996*

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## Yemeni-Eritrean Conflict

### Yemeni House Stresses 'Sovereignty' Over Island

*JN0501073896 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives held its ordinary session yesterday under Salih Qa'id Muqbil, member of the House's speakership. It discussed the developments connected with the treacherous Eritrean aggression against the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al-Kabir.

In this context, the House adopted a number of resolutions and asked the government to abide by them. The people's representatives directed several questions at the government concerning the developments and implications of the Eritrean aggression against the Yemeni island of al-Hanish, al-Kabir so that the government will respond to them and brief the House on all new developments as they occur.

The House advised of the need to abide by the legal and historical rights of our country in its sovereignty over the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al-Kabir, and to reject any form of encroachment on Yemen's sovereignty over its territory and territorial waters.

The House appreciated the efforts to remove the traces of the continuing Eritrean aggression on the Yemeni island of al-Hanish al- Kabir by peaceful means and restore the situation to what it was before 15 December. The House recommended speedy measures to protect the Yemeni islands and territorial waters. The House stressed the need to adhere to international laws concerning resolution of border disputes among states and [words indistinct] international agreement [words indistinct] and the Foreign Relations Committee and inform the House of all developments as they occur.

The members continued their discussion of the House's draft budget for 1996. The House will resume its meetings next Saturday [6 January] God willing.

### Sanaa Message to OAU Asserts Island Sovereignty

*NC0501104496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 5 Jan (MENA)—In a message to OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim, Yemen has asserted its full sovereignty over the disputed al-Hanish al-Kabir Island, using old documents and agreements to prove its assertion. Eritrea, which seceded from Ethiopia in May 1991, is disputing ownership of the island.

An OAU diplomatic source in Addis Ababa told MENA today that Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani told Salim Ahmed Salim in his message to him that numerous Ottoman documents prove Yemeni ownership of the island, because the Ottomans maintained a presence there at one time.

Al-Iryani said that during the rule of Emperor Haile Selassie, Yemen sent several delegations to Ethiopia to examine reports of an Israeli presence on some islands in the Red Sea.

The Yemeni foreign minister added that during the 1973 Egyptian-Israeli war, Yemen acceded to an Egyptian request to use several Yemeni islands including al-Hanish al-Kabir. He pointed out that Egypt did not address the request to Ethiopia, which had sovereignty over the Eritrean province. Eritrea had not yet seceded. The Ethiopian Government did not protest the Yemeni Government's decision to place the islands at the Egyptian Government's disposal during the 1973 war. He explained that the use of the islands was governed by an agreement signed by Yemen and Egypt on 12 May 1973.

The Yemeni minister emphasized in his message to the OAU secretary general that when Yemen carries out activities on al- Hanish al-Kabir and the other Yemeni islands, it is merely exercising its longstanding sovereignty over them.

Al-Iryani continued in his seven-page letter that Yemen cannot accept being told to vacate the island, since its presence there is a natural right of sovereignty. He added that his country will not be idle in proving its certified historical rights to the island and strongly warns any party against becoming involved in the conflict. Yemen, he declared, reserves its right to defend the sovereignty of its territories.

In a related development, a Yemeni diplomatic source in Addis Ababa refuted Eritrea's claim that what the Eritrean forces did on al-Hanish al-Kabir was not an act of occupation because Eritrean forces were there before the conflict began.

The source told MENA that the Eritrean forces were made ready on 15 December to invade and seize the Yemeni island and that Eritrean reconnaissance teams arrived earlier on the Suyul Hanish Island, which lies next to al-Hanish al-Kabir. The source added that the Eritrean forces invaded on 16 December. This, the source said, proves that the Eritrean forces were not present on the island on 15 December, as the Eritrean Foreign Ministry alleges.

### Eritrean Coverage of Conflict Over Islands

*WA2012150095*

For further reportage of the Eritrean-Yemeni confrontation over the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea, including

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official Eritrean Foreign Ministry statements, please see the East Africa section of the 19 December Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab Ministers Meeting Addresses 'Terrorism,' Drugs

*LD0501005796 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2247 GMT 4 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, 4 January — HRH Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, interior minister and honorary chairman of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, has said that the items on the agenda of the council's 13th session which have been submitted so far has been approved, including the codes of conduct for the member states on combating terrorism, regarding which his highness said: "They have been approved, according to my understanding."

In a statement to journalists after the evening session, his highness said: "I have not found anything in the other items that would constitute a problem, in my view." [passage omitted]

Regarding an Arab strategy to combat terrorism, Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that agreement had been reached to set up a working party comprising 16 states, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to assess and study the issue with a view of clarifying the concept and meaning of terrorism.

His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed that Arab efforts to combat drugs were persistent and intensive, pointing out that the Arab strategy for combating drugs had been approved previously.

In reply to a question on the issue, his highness said: "There is further determination to make the strategy more effective and give it impetus. Efforts are being intensified by all drug combating authorities in Arab states."

His highness added: "There are meetings and contacts with all drug combating centers in the world, led by the competent authorities at the UN."

His highness denied that there has been any problems in that sphere, and said that work was continuing in a collective manner.

His highness also dismissed the existence of any reservations regarding the clause pertaining to the codes of conduct for the member states on combating terrorism.

His highness said: "It has been reported that there is reservation on the part of Iraq, but his excellency the Iraqi minister has made it clear to us that it is not a reservation but an enquiry. Consequently, agreement was reached by all, including his excellency the Iraqi interior minister."

In reply to a question, his highness expressed his conviction that the codes of conduct for the member states were not binding in the full sense of the word.

He explained by saying: "These are codes to be used as a guideline in ways of dealing with terrorism. They will become an implementation instrument when decisions are made regarding the issue of strategy which will be looked into at the next meeting, God willing, and when Arab interior minister make appropriate decisions regarding the issue."

### Tunisia's Jegham Gives Ben Ali's Speech

*LD0401173296 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has stated that the Arab countries, which are on the threshold of the 21st century, are facing challenges that force them to apply themselves to put overall development as their definite priority. In a speech addressed today to the participants in the 13th session of the council of Arab interior ministers, and delivered on his behalf by Interior Minister Mohamed Jegham. President Ben Ali pointed out that the duty required striking a balance between development action, providing security, guaranteeing the conditions for the stability of societies, and reinforcing national solidarity.

He added that this is an essential principle, on which Tunisia of the new era [since Ben Ali took power in 1987] relied to run its affairs and thanks to which it achieved a great deal toward entrenching tranquillity and giving peace of mind to its people. Tunisia, he said, also succeeded in improving the people's living conditions and enabling them to raise their ambitions for a better life.

The president also said that past experiences had proved that any development that does not include all the social groups would result in negative consequences, which in turn would push the marginalized people to go astray and eventually commit crimes. He added that awareness was now needed, more than ever before, in view of the various forms of organized crime, the means offered by modern times that can be exploited to take crime across all borders, and also in view of the presence of criminals in all countries. He pointed out in this respect that the current session of the council of Arab interior ministers offered a special opportunity to examine the draft code of conduct for the fight against terrorism. He expressed the hope that the session would succeed in laying down

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rules drawn from the teachings of our religion; cultural, humanitarian, and moral values; and noble objective aimed at preserving the interests of the Arab peoples, safeguarding their gains, and preparing the suitable conditions for their development and progress.

President Ben Ali stressed Tunisia's eagerness to consolidate cooperation with the member states in the fight against terrorism and the assistance given to facilitate investigations, legal prosecutions, and extraditions. He also expressed his satisfaction with the serious follow-up given to the second Arab security plan, which has entered its third year. He referred in particular to the success achieved by the consultative committee set up by the council, which drew up a draft Arab information strategy on security awareness and crime prevention. He stressed the importance of this draft document, saying that true security was everybody's responsibility in order to bring up the citizen within a cohesive civilian society and with values for work that is in the general interest.

The head of state hailed the efforts of the competent security bodies, particularly those cooperating in the fight against drugs. He called for an in-depth examination of the latest developments in this sector at all levels, as regards production, distribution, and consumption. He also urged the council to continue its efforts in enabling the Arab security bodies to keep up with all the latest developments in the area of crime and deviation in all its forms and with all its methods. He highlighted the need to modernize the means of security action, update its procedures, and develop the necessary skills.

The 13th session of the council of Arab interior ministers opened in Tunis today and will continue until 6 January. The agenda of this session includes a number of items centered essentially on the implementation of the second Arab security plan and the second phase of the Arab strategy on the fight against the illegal use of drugs and hallucinogenic substances. The council will also examine a draft code of conduct for the member states on the fight against terrorism and the proposal to set up a regional center for training and research on crime prevention and criminal justice in the Mediterranean states.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'The Engineer' Yahya 'Ayyash Said Killed in Blast

*TA0501132096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer, was killed this morning in an explosion in a house in Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip. The circumstances surrounding the blast are not yet clear, but Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem that 'Ayyash was killed in an operation by Israeli security forces. The Palestinian Authority refused to comment and said it knows nothing about this. Knowledgeable Israeli sources, however, told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that 'Ayyash was indeed eliminated.

'Ayyash had been wanted for several years, and the Shin Bet head said at the time that capturing or killing him is the primary mission of the security apparatus. 'Ayyash was responsible for several grave terror attacks in which dozens of Israelis were killed and hundreds wounded.

The report of his death has shocked Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members in Gaza.

### Radio: Expired, With Someone's Help

*TA0501130696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1244 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Studio talk between political correspondent Shlomo Raz and anchor Hayim Zissowitz — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio. I believe you have a vague confirmation from political sources in Jerusalem that Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer, is dead.

[Raz] I must be very careful in view of the nature of the issue and the incident but, according to the best information I have from, let us say, authoritative sources, Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer, has expired, and with someone's help. In simple words: Yahya 'Ayyash is dead, was killed, or, on the basis of more authoritative sources than those who have come forward so far, has been wiped out.

[Zissowitz] Does this mean that it was a liquidation and not a work accident?

[Raz] This means that Yahya 'Ayyash is dead. [passage omitted]

### Israel Said Behind Killing

*TA0501141296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1308 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal by Itay Engel; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Engel] Our political correspondent has just updated us that political sources in Jerusalem are confirming that Israel is behind the elimination of the Engineer, Yahya 'Ayyash.

[Shahal] They are welcome to do as they please. I cannot comment on this issue at all.

[Engel] Can Israeli citizens be calmer from now on?

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[Shahal] 'Ayyash was very instrumental in preparing car bombs and instructing others who prepared explosives with his special method. Everybody knows the explosions he was responsible for: Dizengoff, 'Afula, and others. The fact that he is gone makes us feel much better, and I believe the entire security apparatus can take a deep breath now that an explosion eliminated him.

[Engel] Are the Israeli security forces in touch with the Palestinian forces in Gaza?

[Shahal] I cannot go into details. I would not want to damage relations that we believe, by their very nature, are not a matter for public discussion. One thing is clear: I believe it is in the Palestinian Authority's [PA] interest that there be quiet and stability in the process. The test of the PA's becoming a political framework lies in its ability to impose law and order. The better it does so, the more it will prove its ability to run the Palestinian self-rule.

[Engel] Will the elimination of 'Ayyash at this stage contribute to quiet in the PA before the elections?

[Shahal] Clearly, the fact that the man is gone can only bring calm on every level here and also in the PA areas.

[Engel] Was there Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in this?

[Shahal] I cannot talk about this issue.

[Engel] Is this theory farfetched?

[Shahal] Look, neighboring countries have common interests, and the Palestinians, who are our neighbors, share an interest with us in eliminating terror because the aim of the terrorists is to disrupt orderly life and harm the peace process. The more progress we make, the more hard-pressed they are to prevent it. Any understanding we make to attain peace runs counter to the interests of the terrorist elements. It is only natural that security elements should cooperate and exchange information. I hope that our relations with the Palestinians will become normal and trusting.

### PFLP-GC Claims 'Authority' Involved

*JN0501151596 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Statement by the PFLP-GC on 5 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Masses of our people, the heroes of our people in the homeland and the diaspora: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] announces to the masses of our Arab nation, the Islamic nation, and freedom lovers in the world the death of hero engineer martyr Yahya 'Ayyash, known as the engineer, who had dealt the harshest blows against the Zionist entity. The PFLP-GC, while mourning hero martyr Eng. Yahya 'Ayyash announces that it will continue to abide by the pledge and affirms to all our people in the homeland and the diaspora that the course of jihad will not stop and that the martyr's blood will not go to waste.

Heroes of our people everywhere, the limited authority which helped the Zionist Mosad reach Jabaliya to hunt down the hero engineer is a main partner in the killing operation. It has facilitated the arrival of the explosives and monitored the location of the hero engineer, and enabled Mosad to leave its signature on the body of one of our peole's heroes, who is one of the symbols of the intifadah, the cream of our young men, and one who inspired our ongoing revolution.

Brother strugglers everywhere, the PFLP-GC calls on our people to mourn the hero martyr, Yahya 'Ayyash, the symbol of our young generation. The PFLP-GC calls for general mourning in the homeland and the diaspora and for hoisting black flags everywhere. It also calls for exposing the collusion of the limited authority, and for considering the martyr hero who gave his life and knowhow to the homeland and has offered his soul to his creator for the sake of liberating the holy places as an example for all to follow.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC Political Bureau, Friday, 5 January 1996

### Al-Husayni Doubts PA Involvement

*TA0501143696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1315 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA member responsible for the Jerusalem file, by Itay Engel; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Engel] What do you know about the killing of Yahya 'Ayyash in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Husayni] I first heard it from you just now. I was very busy with other things, far from the radio.

[Engel] What is your reaction?

[Al-Husayni] You know 'Ayyash had been wanted by both the Israelis and the Palestinians, who wanted him to stop his operations.

[Engel] Could such a job — the elimination of Yahya 'Ayyash — be the work of the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know what happened there. I want to say, however, that the Engineer had not been active

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for quite some time, either because he did not want to or could not be. I do not have information to share on this.

[Engel] Who do you think is responsible for this: the PA, Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Look, it may be that Israel did it. Had it been the Palestinians, they would have arrested him and prevented him from carrying out new operations. Killing is not the Palestinian way.

[Engel] Will his removal bring quiet?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know. It was quiet before he died. I hope quiet will prevail, but it is also possible that this incident will give rise to some movement that will change the calm situation. I was surprised by this affair. I really do not know.

[Engel] Do you expect that tempers will flare in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and that the extremists will disrupt the calm in the wake of this liquidation?

[Al-Husayni] I am afraid this may happen, but I pray to God that it does not.

[Engel] Does it serve or harm the PA on the eve of the elections?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the PA can be pleased with its success in bringing about quiet without violence. This incident conflicts with the quiet we have been experiencing. Let us wait and see.

### PA Calls Reports 'Israeli Propaganda'

*TA0501145796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel's security forces were placed on alert following the elimination of Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer. He was killed this morning in a house in Bayt Lahiyah in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian police reported that two bodies, a man and a woman, were found shot in the house. [passage omitted]

Shortly after we — citing Palestinian police sources — reported that two bodies were found in Bayt Lahiyah, Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a senior Palestinian Authority [PA] member, called our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem from Bayt Lahiyah and denied the report. He said that searches are continuing, no bodies have been found, there are no signs of an explosion or shooting, and all of this is Israeli propaganda. [passage omitted]

### Hamas Warns Israel of Renewed Attacks

*TA0501135796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1315 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Report by Dani Zaqen in Gaza — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Palestinian Authority [PA] have said that two bodies were removed from the building in which Yahya 'Ayyash was killed.

A senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member, who had been in contact with the PA and even took part in negotiations on the elections, said today: There is nothing to talk about anymore — definitely not about participating in the elections. We may even reissue a call to boycott the elections.

The more serious aspect of his remarks was his address to Israel: He said that if indeed 'Ayyash was wiped out — about which he was uncertain — this will cause an exacerbation and a return to exactly the same type of attacks. It is back to the armed struggle, as he put it. Furthermore, he said: We will create 1,000 new Yahya 'Ayyashes. We will take revenge.

He sounded very upset, and so probably are many within the Hamas leadership. Large crowds are currently gathering around the mosques and other Hamas strongholds in the Gaza Strip.

### 'Arafat Adviser on Observers, Election of Chairman

*NC0501091996 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Jerusalem, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Miliji] Welcome to our radio.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

[Al-Miliji] Could you brief us on preparations for the Palestinian Assembly elections due to be held on 20 January?

[Al-Tibi] All the signs of campaigning are apparent in the streets of the Palestinian towns and villages. The candidates are touring their constituencies. Election slogans, posters, media reporting on the campaign, and communications are in full swing. What is happening are the usual preparations for legislative elections.

[Al-Miliji] Dr. al-Tibi, could you please tell us something about the international supervision of the elections?

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[Al-Tibi] There are several committees of international observers. There is a central committee, which is constantly kept up to date with all the details of the election, including voter registration and the election campaign itself. International observers' observations are considered. The chairman of the international observers and brother Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the central committee for the Palestinian elections, have met. All the issues the observers committee wished to present to the elections committee were examined and the international observers issued a statement expressing satisfaction with the way things are proceeding.

[Al-Miliji] What about the disagreement between you and the international observers?

[Al-Tibi] A statement was made that the chief of the international observers had not had the chance to meet brother Abu-Mazin. Brother Abu-Mazin is a Palestinian leader who has other duties in addition to overseeing the elections committee. He was abroad at the time. When he returned he received the chief of the international observers committee. This issue is over and done with. Concerning the international observers' statement that the two-week period allotted to campaigning was too short, Abu-Mazin and the central elections committee ordered that campaigning should begin immediately. The period then became three weeks as required by the agreement. The international observers expressed total satisfaction with this. Hence there is no problem now with the international observers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] Could you please, in your capacity as President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, give us more information about the way the Palestinian Authority [PA] chairman will be elected?

[Al-Tibi] Apart from my brother President Yasir 'Arafat, there is one other candidate—sister Samihah Khalil, from al-Birah, near Ramallah. The PA chairman will be chosen by direct election. I am happy there is another candidate.

[Al-Miliji] We would like to inform our listeners of the way the PA chairman is elected.

[Al-Tibi] This will take place at the same time as the legislative elections, on 20 January. Each Palestinian voter will complete two ballots, one for the PA chairmanship and one for the Assembly membership.

[Al-Miliji] Thank you Dr. Ahmad.

[Al-Tibi] You are welcome.

**Hamas: Council Election Results 'a Fact'**

*TA0501070096 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 4 Jan 96*

[From the "Elections Update" — received via fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistence] Movement affirmed yesterday that it will approve the legislative council elections' results "as a fact." Hamas spokesperson in Gaza Mahmud al-Zahhar stated that the "elections will impose a fact as the Authority is a fact, and we cannot reject this reality." On the nomination withdrawal of three Hamas affiliates, he affirmed that "Hamas did not practice any pressures or provocative acts on them," and denied that the movement has threatened to punish them. Hamas has renewed its decision to boycot the legsilative elections las Monday. [sentence as received]

**DFLP Splinter Group To Participate in Elections**

*JN0401212696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A group calling itself the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Realistic Method [DFLP-RM] [al-jabhah al-dimuqratiyah litahrir filastin-al-nahj al-waqi'i] has stressed that it will participate in the Palestinian Legislative Assembly elections.

In a statement, a copy of which WAFA received today, the Democratic Front-Realistic Method said that these elections will come out with candidates who will play a key role in applying the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, building the homeland, and establishing an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The front urged its members to effectively participate in the elections and to give their votes to those who deserve them.

**Al-Najjab Notes Distinct Roles of PNC, Assembly**

*MM0401154896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 96 p 3*

[Report by Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Al-Najjab Warns Against Dissolving National Council Role Into Elected Legislative Assembly and Palestinian Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah — PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has warned against dissolving the Palestine National Council's [PNC] role into the Palestinian Authority and the Legislative Assembly [al-majlis al-tashri'i] to be elected on 20 January. He urged the Palestinian opposition to participate in the elections.

On the relationship between the elected assembly and the PNC, al-Najjab told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that

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the memorandum attached to the elections law regards members of the elected assembly as PNC members, specifically within the quota allocated in this council [PNC] to the occupied territories (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip). He added that "this fact highlights two problems: The first results from the fact that members of the elected assembly have limited powers, as stipulated in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement — which means that the elected assembly will be a self-rule assembly [majlis hukm dhati], while the PNC, especially when the independence document has been issued or the Palestinian state has been proclaimed, will become the state's parliament with all the well-known powers. This is in addition to the fact that the PNC embodies the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside [the self-rule areas]."

As for the second problem, al-Najjab, leader of the Palestinian People's Party, says that it lies in the threat of the PNC dissolving into the elected assembly with its limited powers. He said: It is known that, in the world's view, an elected assembly is stronger in terms of legitimacy than an appointed assembly. He added: "We have urged and continue to urge the need not to merge the two [the PNC and the Legislative Assembly], and to keep the elected assembly separated from the PNC, as the former should be accountable to the latter. Because the PLO Executive Committee is the higher authority for the Palestinian Authority, and it is the body responsible for and supervising the negotiation process as a whole, even if this process is going to be conducted by the elected assembly." [passage omitted]

**Election Neutrality Ordered for Security Forces**

*JN0401210096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Palestinian National Security Forces, today issued a circular to all the security organs. The circular says: At the instructions of President Yasir 'Arafat, all the security organs should remain completely neutral in the media campaign of any candidate and should refrain from participating in the media campaign of any candidate, subject to punishment by law, in order to insure fair elections and guarantee the neutrality of the security organs.

**'Arafat Receives Japanese Letter on Elections, Aid**

*JN0401204896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has received a letter from the Japanese Government announcing that 13 parliamentarians and 58 observers would participate in the upcoming legislative elections.

In the letter conveyed by Japanese envoy (Famyaki), the Tokyo government informed President 'Arafat of its decision to offer $800,000 in aid to the Palestinian election process.

**Monitoring Group Notes Elections Law 'Violations'**

*TA0501064996 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 4 Jan 96*

["Press Statement" by the Palestinian Domestic Monitoring Committee — received via fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Expressing our concern as domestic election monitors for these the first Palestinian elections for President and Legislative Council to be implemented on a free and fair basis, and without ambiguity and difficulties for voters, the Palestinian Domestic Monitoring Committee (PDMC) announces its reservations regarding violations and excesses which contradict the text and spirit of the Palestinian Electoral Law.

We are extremely concerned and anxious with regard to the following elections-related issues:

1. The PDMC was astonished by an official announcement from the Palestinian National Authority appearing in local newspapers on January 2, 1996, stating that citizens who wish to acquire a Palestinian passport must produce a voter registration card. The PDMC considers this to be an undemocratic form of punishment for citizens who are unwilling to participate in the election due to their political beliefs, particularly the opposition.

2. The PDMC notes the delay in announcing the formation of the Central Election Commission (CEC), without public explanation. Between the resignation of the former CEC and the formation of the present body, a significant period of time elapsed in which no person or independent body was held responsible for administering the electoral process.

3. The increase, by 5 seats, of the size of the Palestinian Legislative Council by Presidential decree and without explanation, has caused Confusion among the competing political parties, candidates and voters. Further, the process of allocating the additional seats has caused questioning with regard to the different electoral districts, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty concerning why some districts gained seats and others not.

4. Delays in announcing the formation of appeals courts and [delays] in the electoral campaigns period (by Presidential decree), as well as the reopening of voter registration have further helped to increase confusion among the general public.

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5. The PDMC has observed numerous violations by political parties and independent candidates that have begun their electoral campaigns prior to the official date announced in the electoral law. Campaign leaflets and posters have been distributed and posted on walls in many streets, campaign rallies have been held, and repeated candidacy announcements have appeared in the local press.

6. PDMC has not received answers from Jerusalem elections officials regarding questions relating to the elections process in that district. PDMC has endeavored to contact district elections officers in Jerusalem, and it appears that some officers are not aware that they have been appointed to these positions. As such, the Jerusalem district elections officers are not a reliable source of information to voters, political parties and candidates in that district. Confusion also remains regarding when voter lists will be finalized.

On the basis of this report, the PDMC hopes that a solution to these problems will be found at the earliest possible moment, and that future complications may be avoided. We hope that a suitable mechanism will be found which guarantees respect for the electoral law, both literally and in spirit, and represents the basis of democratic and fair elections.

The PDMC continues to try to contact the members of the Central Election Commission to study all of these issues and resolve them, particularly as we pass through this critical and brief period which requires public confidence in the electoral process as a whole.

The PDMC would like to extend its appreciation to the international observers who issued statements on the electoral process. We hope that the above observations will be taken into consideration to promote fair and free democratic elections in Palestine.

**Peace Watch Warns of Campaign Irregularities**

*TA0501120596 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by JERUSALEM POST Staff and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peace Watch said yesterday that the campaign for the January 20 Palestinian election is being held under an "atmosphere of fear" due to the recent arrest of Basim 'Id and AL-QUDS editor Mahir al-'Alami.

The organization said the campaign was also marked by "arbitrariness and uncertainty."

Peace Watch, appointed by Israel and the Palestinians to act as an election observer, criticized PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for reshuffling Fatah party lists and pressuring some candidates to drop out of the race for the 88-seat council.

As a result, the monitoring group said, some Fatah members decided to run as independents.

"A number of independent candidates told Peace Watch observers that they have been under heavy pressure to withdraw their candidacies and a few have already withdrawn," a statement said.

Peace Watch also raised questions about the distribution of the seats among the 16 electoral districts. It said the West Bank's largest city, Nabulus, was underrepresented while the Gaza Strip, where 'Arafat is based, is overrepresented.

District boundaries were also changed at the last minute, and population statistics were not made available, raising further questions about fair representation.

The report noted that there was no channel for reaching the Election Appeals Court except a telephone number in the existing Gaza Court.

Peace Watch said candidates for council seats were supposed to resign from positions in 'Arafat's appointed self-rule government. 'Arafat issued a presidential decree allowing four to keep their posts while other resignations appeared to be "in name only," the group said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 January adds that "at least 10 activists from the radical Islamic organizations have presented their candidacies in the elections to the Palestinian council, including the brother of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the leader of Islamic Jihad who was assassinated in Malta, and two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who had been deported to south Lebanon."]

**Al-Husayni Unaware Visits to Orient House Banned**

*JN0401155396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1235 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Yusuf al-Mahmud in the studio in Jericho, from the "Today's Events" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Ma?.mud] Good afternoon.

[Al-Husayni] Good afternoon.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, have you been informed of any Israeli Government decision banning visits to Orient House by foreign figures?

[Al-Husayni] No, not at all. We have not been informed of such a decision. None of the foreign consulates has

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contacted us on this issue. It is most likely that the reports to this effect were the creation of the media. It is our hope that wisdom will prevail, and that no such decision will be made, because such a decision will hurt the overall peace process, particularly Israel and its international image.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Has any European consul or ambassador in Jerusalem notified you of such a decision, or of moves toward such a decision?

[Al-Husayni] No, we have not seen anything to this effect. We have only heard of this in the news media.

[Al-Mahmud] In case the Israeli Government makes such a decision, how will it affect the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] First, let me say that the adoption of such a decision would indisputably confirm that Jerusalem is not a unified city, but rather an occupied city, in which repressive measures are taken, even against foreign diplomats. Second, such a decision would be in violation of the agreement, which stipulated that the future of the city shall be determined in final status talks. The agreement further stipulated that no measures should be taken in the city to prejudge its final status. Such a decision will actually create a huge problem for the political process. We will use our European and other foreign contacts to handle such a decision, which would have adverse consequences. Israel and Arab states have been involved in multilateral talks, which could be brought to a halt by such a decision.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni: Whom did you last meet at Orient House?

[Al-Husayni] The French foreign minister.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem: Thank you.

[Al-Husayni] You are most welcome.

### Receives UK Official at Orient House

*TA0501075196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Britain's Deputy Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hanley has met with Palestinian leaders in Orient House in East Jerusalem.

At the end of yesterday's meeting, Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni said he would continue the practice of receiving visiting at Orient House, as he has done prior to the Oslo agreement. Also attending the meeting were Hanan 'Ashrawi and Ziyad al-Maliki. [passage omitted]

### Sha'th: Israel Agrees To Release 1,200 Prisoners

*JN0401161796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, former minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that an agreement was reached with Israel to release more than 1,200 prisoners next Tuesday and Wednesday, including 400 prisoners from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Dr. Sha'th — who met with Israel's Minister of Environment Yosi Sarid and Minister of Justice David Liba'i at Erez crossing today — said that the names of the prisoners that will be released will be announced ahead of time.

Sha'th demanded that a presidential decree be issued, allowing the prisoners that will be released to register their names as voters in the areas they live in.

In statements to the "Today's Events" program, Sha'th noted that some prisoners serving long-term sentences will be among those who will be released.

Sha'th said that the negotiations will continue until all male and female prisoners are released.

## Arab-Israeli Talks

### 'Optimism' in Jerusalem About Wye Plantation Talks

*TA0401194596 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Discussion between anchor Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Nisim Mish'al in the studio, and report by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Optimism was expressed in Jerusalem tonight following reports that progress has been made in the talks with Syria, which are continuing at this hour at Wye Plantation. Secretary Christopher is due to join the talks soon. Our political correspondent Nisim Mish'al: Is it genuine or tactical optimism?

[Mish'al] The following quote will clarify the situation and the optimism in Jerusalem tonight. It is a quote from Prime Minister Peres, who told close aides the following: It is going much better than I had thought. Uri's [Savir] report is very interesting. We have to go on thinking up original ideas. In other words, the barometer of optimism in Jerusalem tonight has gone up and the feeling is that the Syrians are moderating positions and are ready to make certain concessions, especially on issues of substance. The reason for the optimism might

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also be the fact that the U.S. Administration has begun to complement the negotiations with direct talks with both governments. But — and this is a big but — since the start of the negotiations, Shim'on Peres' tactics have been to cloud the negotiations, and it may be possible that the optimism expressed in Jerusalem is part of that effort.

[Yavin] Let's turn to Ya'aqov Ahime'ir in Washington. Ya'aqov, is there any sign of the optimism at the site of the talks, perhaps because Christopher is joining them tonight?

[Ahime'ir] My information is also based on Israeli sources, who talk about very positive significant progress. The progress was more substantial than in the earlier round. There may even be a joint Israeli-Syrian announcement or at least a U.S. announcement at the conclusion of the talks tomorrow.

Despite the optimism to which Israeli sources are referring, I do not think that Israel and Syria have reached any agreement on their concept of peace, which is what the Israeli delegation had aimed for when the talks started. I do not think that Israel and Syria are discussing the same peace concept yet.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 2 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 4 January in a similar report adds that "the two delegations managed to make real progress today and reached written agreements on the nature of the peace and future relations between the two states." In a report from Washington, 'Imanu'el Rosen says that "following lunch, a discussion will be held for the first time on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. It will be a general discussion without maps and will be held in a restricted forum made up only of delegation heads." Rosen reports that "two clear points of agreement have been reached: Syria accepts Peres' concept that the peace will be Israel's final comprehensive peace with all the Arab states, and it is prepared for parallel discussions on all issues in the working teams. As we have already reported, this Syrian readiness will lead to a resumption of the officers' talks on 17 January after Christopher completes his visit to the region."]

**Syria Gives 'Partial' Answer on Nature of Peace**

*TA0501075096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Syrian delegates are to wrap up the current round of discussions in Maryland today. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher joined the negotiators at Wye Plantation last night. The delegation heads told Christopher they had made some progress in discussions, but reports from the meeting indicate that the Syrians have given only a partial answer to the Israeli question over the nature of peace in which they are interested.

Qol Yisra'el's correspondent adds that this week's discussions focused primarily on economic issues.

During his shuttle to Jerusalem and Damascus next week, the U.S. secretary will try to define the framework for the continuing discussions. Israeli sources expect the talks in Maryland to continue and the delegations to return there at the end of the month.

**Talks on Displaced Palestinians End Without Results**

*TA0401175696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Another round of talks by the experts committee on Palestinian displaced persons concluded without any real results. The participants — the Palestinians, and representatives from Israel, Jordan, and Egypt — will convene in Cairo next month.

Our Arab affairs correspondent notes that Israel and the Arabs differ on the question of who is a displaced person. According to Israel, a displaced person is someone who fled during and because of the 1967 war. The Arabs include in the definition those who could not return.

## Algeria

**PRA Ready To Take Part in New Government**

*LD0401214796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The public is still awaiting the announcement of the formation of a new government. The "Forum" [television] program today, Thursday [4 January], had as its guests the representatives of political parties that took part in the presidential elections of 16 November. Mouhane Saou explored the question of the eventual participation of these political groupings in the government of Mr. Ouyahia. [passage omitted]

The Party of Algerian Renewal [PRA] has taken a more positive tone. Djelali Soufiane confirmed that PRA leader Noureddine Boukrouh will take part in the Ouyahia government. The following is an excerpt of his remarks.

[Begin Soufiane recording] Noureddine Boukrouh, like the other party leaders, met President Zeroual, who informed him of the proposal that he should participate in both the executive and legislative branches of government — despite the fact that the Transitional National

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Council is still only a transitional, provisional entity. We feel that, since 16 November, a great problem has been largely solved, and that is the question of legitimacy. It is not so much the future national assembly that will be the first step in legitimizing the country's institutions, but rather the president as such who, as you know, constitutes the cornerstone of Algerian republican institutions as provided for in the Constitution of 1989. As such, he is fully justified in expecting a constructive reaction from the political parties. Algeria is entering an era of reconstruction. We have suffered from far too many conflicts, including armed conflicts, with many Algerians losing their lives. Now is the time to rebuild our institutions and our country. We are no longer in a period of indiscriminate opposition. Algeria needs stable institutions. The president has asked us to make a contribution, and I can confirm to our listeners that the PRA has given its assent and will be present in the future government. [end recording]

**Fighting Between 'Criminal Groups' Leave 55 Dead**

*LD0401163696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1600 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The fighting between armed criminal groups has left 55 dead. This has been reported by today's editions of the national press.

The bodies of these people were found in the mountains of Chrea, in Blida, in a forest in Tlemcen and in Lakhdaria. This, according to the national press, is the result of violent fighting that took place about a month ago between the terrorist groups of the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] and the AIS [Islamic Salvation Army].

## Egypt

**Mubarak Entrusts al-Janzuri With al-Azhar Affairs**

*NC0401172696 Cairo MENA in English 1113 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 4 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree for Premier Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri to be in charge of al-Azhar affairs.

**Mubarak Appoints Sidqi Specialized Councils' Supervisor**

*NC0401172496 Cairo MENA in English 1028 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 4 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree appointing outgoing prime minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi as general supervisor of the Specialised National Councils.

Sidqi, who tendered his government's resignation on Tuesday [2 December], is replacing Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim.

Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, who served as minister of planning in the former Sidqi-led government, is leading the new government.

**Mubarak Awards Outgoing Ministers Medals**

**Decorates Sidqi**

*NC0401174096 Cairo MENA in English 1012 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 4 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today confered the Collar of the Republic upon outgoing prime minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

The decoration took place with members of the outgoing Sidqi-led government who will serve in the new cabinet attending.

**Decorates Other Ministers**

*NC0401173996 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 4 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today awarded the outgoing ministers the Order of the Republic of the first degree.

The ministers who left the cabinet are: Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, former minister of finance; Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, former minister of wakfs; Ahmad Radwan, former minister of cabinet affairs; Dr. Mahir Mahran, former minister of state for population and family planning; Engineer Muhammad Salah-al-Din Hasaballah, former minister of housing and utilities; Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, former minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah, former minister of health; and Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi, former minister of industry and mineral wealth.

**Information Minister Comments on Cabinet Meeting**

*NC0401182096 Cairo MENA in English 1628 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 4 (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif today said that President Husni Mubarak expressed his best wishes to the new government during his meeting with its members at the presidency headquarters here today .

The president wished them the best of luck in carrying out their hard task which would need unlimited efforts and continued work.

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President Mubarak pointed out during the meeting that the former government had successfully discharged its role at a difficult stage of Egypt's modern history and that it had exerted enormous efforts towards building the infrastructure and realizing socio-economic development, al-Sharif said.

President Mubarak urged the employment of the means and instruments of this time, pointing out that fierce economic competition has replaced ideological conflict in our world.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak asserted that man is the target both in terms of improving his living standards and in view of the fact that he is the maker of development and progress.

On the objectives of the coming stage, President Mubarak said that economic reform will continue and that the accomplishments secured in the monetary, financial and development domains will be sustained.

On education, President Mubarak said it will remain Egypt's national project and the natural passageway to the 21st century.

On the over population problem, President Mubarak said that the state, with all its institutions, should confront the problem via awareness campaigns and continued efforts to attack the problem of overpopulation which, he said, devours a considerable part of development efforts.

Al-Sharif quoted President Mubarak as having underlined the exigency of keeping the people posted on developments and facts without resorting to blackout tactics.

President Mubarak asserted the necessity of coordination among all ministries in the confrontation of extremist ideology, pointing out to the role of education, religious institutions and cultural and media organs in correcting wrong ideas and protecting youngsters.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak accentuated the necessity of upgrading public services and providing remote communities with their needs in this respect.

On the public business sector, President Mubarak tackled the issue of expanding the ownership base in public enterprise sector companies with a view to giving momentum to private ownership.

Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri pledged that the new cabinet will rise up to President Mubarak's confidence in the new government and that it will exert every effort in the service of Egypt with the ultimate objective of realizing development, progress and grooming the homeland for entering the new century.

**Economy Minister on Economic Challenges, Devaluation**

*NC0401195696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Dr. Nawal al-Tatawi, minister of economic and international cooperation, stressed that Egypt's economy is an integrated unit and that the aim of economic development is to serve society. She noted that there are several ways to achieve this aim, including an increase in the level of savings by getting the Egyptian people accustomed to this habit so as to reach the point of economic self-propulsion.

Speaking at her first news conference since being appointed minister, she said that there are new ideas for increasing the growth level by attracting capital through other means, offering incentives and privileges, and by activating the money, bonds, and shares markets, and direct investments in order to absorb the surplus and expand the base of public share ownership.

The minister touched on the challenges facing the Egyptian economy, most prominently the high increase in the population which requires development levels to rise more quickly than population levels. She stressed that giving impetus to exports is a top priority in the coming stage in addition to improving quality and reducing costs both for exports and for the local market so as to be able to compete with comparable imported products inside and outside the country.

Regarding the devaluation of the Egyptian pound, Dr. al-Tatawi said that this issue is absolutely out of the question and that its current stability is the best evidence of this. She noted that the Egyptian pound's stability was achieved under conditions when tourism revenues were affected and when resources were not exploited fully.

She underlined the importance of cooperation between Egypt and the outside world, noting in this respect that regional cooperation or partnership with the United States or the European Union are basically aimed at serving the interests of Egypt and its economy and that this does not mean dispensing with Arab cooperation. She also stressed the importance of having a clear strategic plan, adding that this requires persistent work to catch up with technology as the nation approaches the 21st century.

**Minister: Privatization Program To Be Accelerated**

*NC0401205696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and

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minister of state for administrative development and the environment, has said that in the upcoming stage, the privatization process needs to be accelerated and larger portions of the companies that previously offered shares for subscription need to be sold.

In statements today, he said that shares of new companies, worth over 50 percent of the capital, will be offered for subscription.

He said the financial structuring of companies and a settlement of their debts to banks will be completed in the next stage. Thus, the major part of companies' performance will be rectified.

He said under the new formations of company boards of directors, only the boards of successful companies will be kept. He said he and his fellow ministers are studying ways to facilitate services for citizens, such as licenses for building and investment.

He added: We will follow up the environmental control program monthly, as is the case with the cement factories, to prevent pollution.

**MENA Carries Republican Decree Forming Cabinet**

*NC0401140396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree forming the new cabinet under the chairmanship of Dr. Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri. The text of the decree follows:

Having taken cognizance of the Constitution, [the president of the republic] has decided the following:

Article 1: Dr. Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri is appointed prime minister and minister of planning.

Article 2: Dr. Yusuf Amin Wali is appointed deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

Article 3:

Dr. Amal 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Uthman is appointed minister of insurance and social affairs;

Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman is appointed minister of transport and communications;

Engineer Muhammad Mahir Abazah is appointed minister of electricity and energy;

Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman is appointed minister of defense and war production;

Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif is appointed minister of information;

'Amr Mahmud Musa is appointed foreign minister;

Dr. 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd is appointed minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative affairs and the environment;

Counselor Faruq Mahmud Sayf-al-Nasr is appointed minister of justice;

Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husni is appointed minister of culture;

Dr. Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad Sharif is appointed minister of local administration;

Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din is appointed minister of education;

Dr. Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Banbi is appointed minister of petroleum;

Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi is appointed minister of interior;

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali is appointed minister of state at the Prime Minister's Office;

Kamal Muhammad al-Shadhili is appointed minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs;

Dr. Mamduh Ahmad al-Biltaji is appointed minister of tourism;

Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Hamid Radi is appointed minister of public works and water resources;

Dr. Muhammad Zaki Abu-'Amir is appointed minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs;

Dr. Engineer Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman is appointed minister of housing, utilities, and residential communities;

Dr. Venice Kamil Judah is appointed minister of state for scientific research affairs;

Dr. Engineer Muhammad al-Ghamrawi Dawud Hasan is appointed minister of state for war production;

Ahmad Ahmad al-'Amawi is appointed minister of manpower and immigration;

Dr. Ahmad Ahmad Juwayli is appointed minister of trade and supply;

Dr. Muhiy-al-Din Abu-Bakr al-Gharib is appointed minister of finance;

Dr. Zafir Salim al-Bishri is appointed minister of state for planning;

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Counselor Tal'at Sayyid Ahmad Hammad is appointed minister for cabionet affairs and follow up;

Dr. Mahmud Hamdi Zaqzuq is appointed minister of Awqaf;

Engineer Sulayman Rida 'Ali Sulayman is appointed minister of industry and mineral resources;

Dr. Isma'il 'Awadallah Sallam is appointed minister of health and population; and,

Dr. Nawal 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Tatawi is appointed minister of economy and international cooperation.

Article 4: This decree shall be published in the official gazette.

**Decree Issued on Specialized National Councils**

*NC0401162896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree on the specialized national councils defining their jurisdiction and putting them under the president of the Republic's direct control in order to facilitate their tasks. The latter are summed up in laying down firm and longterm plans by tabulating the indigenous resources and exploiting them for achieving national objectives.

The following is the text of the president of the Republic's decree:

Having taken cognizance of the Constitution, of the president of the Republic's decree 615 for the year 1974 on setting up the specialized national councils, and of the president of the Republic's decree 73 for the year 1989 on forming the presidential office, the president has decided the following:

Article 1:

The specialized national councils shall come under the direct control of the president of the Republic. They shall help in drawing up the state's general policy in all spheres of national action and in drawing up firm and longterm plans by tabulating the indigenous resources, exploiting the resources available to the state, and rationalizing their use in order to achieve the national objectives in all spheres of national action.

Article 2:

The specialized national councils consist of:
A — The National Council for Production and Economic Affairs.
B — The National Council for Social Services and Development.
C — The National Council for Education, Scientific Research, and Technology.
D — The National Council for Culture, Arts, Literature, and Information.

Other specialized national councils can be formed by a decree from the president of the Republic.

Article 3:

Every council shall be formed of a number of members who are prominent experts in the council's sphere of work. A decree appointing them shall be issued by the president of the Republic. Each council shall choose its rapporteur from its members.

In cases where the president of the Republic attends the council's meeting, he shall then chair it. Ministers whose ministries' work is related to that of the council shall attend the meetings.

Article 4:

Supervision of the specialized national council shall be given to a general supervisor reporting to the president of the Republic. The supervisor shall be chosen from among officials who have already occupied public positions in the state. A decree from the president of the Republic shall be issued on his appointment and setting his financial remuneration.

Article 5:

The appointment of advisers for the councils who can be members is permissible through a decree from the president of the Republic. The decree appointing them shall set their financial remuneration.

The use of experts to work on a temporary basis, perform tasks, or make studies is also permissible by a decision of the general supervisor of the councils.

Article 6:

The president of the Republic can call for a general conference of all councils which shall meet under his chairmanship and include all their members in order to draw up working plans and review the work already done.

The general conference's recommendations on the studies prepared by the councils shall be relayed to the concerned ministries so as to help the latter draw up their policies and carry out their work.

Article 7:

A higher committee from the councils shall be formed. It shall include the general supervisor, the rapporteurs, the chief of the presidential office, the councils' secretary

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general, and two members to be chosen by each council from among its members annually.

The committee shall draw up each council's work system, specify its branches of action, coordinate between the councils, and prepare reports on the studies, proposals, and recommendations made by the councils and submit them to the president of the Republic.

Article 8:

A secretariat general for the councils shall be formed. It shall manage their technical, financial, and administrative affairs and shall be chaired by a secretary general whose appointment shall be made by decree of the president of the Republic. It shall include sub-secretariats for each council.

The chief of the presidential office shall be in charge of the work of the general secretariat and sub-secretariats. He shall have the authority of the relevant minister with regard to their financial, administrative, and employee affairs.

Article 9:

The state organs shall provide the councils and their secretary general with the information and statistics they require that are relevant to the councils' jurisdiction.

Article 10:

The National Council for Production and Economic Affairs shall specialize in the following:

1. To study and propose general policies for production and the national economy.

2. To study and propose scientific plans for increasing production and strengthening the national economy in the fields of industry, petroleum, electricity, various energy sources, mining, agriculture, land reclamation, irrigation, transport, communications, supplies, internal and external trade, credits, tourism, and other sources of production and national economy.

3. To coordinate among various policies in the council's spheres of work and to follow up and evaluate the results of implementing the plans with the aim of developing future plans in light of the national objectives.

4. Other issues that fall within the context of the council's jurisdiction which are refered to it by the president of the Republic.

Article 11:

The National Council for Social Services and Development shall specialize in the following:

1. To study and propose general policies for the state's social services and development and to rationalize them.

2. To study and propose scientific plans for rationalizing and expanding the base of religious, educational, health, population, family planning and family care, youth care, and social security services; for developing and strengthening local government; and for developing the village and other services with the aim of facing technological advances and society's development.

3. To coordinate among the various policies in the council's spheres of work and to follow up and evaluate the results of implementing the plans with the aim of developing future plans in light of the national objectives.

4. Other issues that fall within the context of the council's jurisdiction which are referred to it by the president of the Republic.

Article 12:

The National Council for Education, Scientific Research, and Technology shall specialize in the following:

1. To study and propose general policies for developing the nation's resources in the fields of education, scientific research, and technology.

2. To study and propose scientific plans on education, scientific research, aspects of technology, international exchange and cooperation in these fields —particularly with Arab, Islamic, and friendly African states — the use of human resources, raising their productive efficiency in order to face technological advances, and linking scientific research to the level of application in order to benefit from them in developing production and other needs of a national character.

3. To coordinate among the various policies in the council's spheres of work and to follow up and evaluate the results of implementing the plans with the aim of developing future plans in light of the national objectives.

4. Other issues that fall within the context of the council's jurisdiction which are referred to it by the president of the Republic.

Article 13:

The National Council for Culture, Arts, Literature, and Information shall specialize in the following:

1. To study and propose general policies for developing the nation's resources in the fields of culture, arts, literature, and information.

2. To study and propose scientific plans on culture, arts, literature, and information with the aim of deepening the awareness of national and human cultural values that elevate the level of human behavior within the context

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of our spiritual and social values in light of changes in the world.

3. To coordinate among the various policies in the council's spheres of work and to follow up and evaluate the results of implementing the plans with the aim of developing future plans in light of the national objectives.

4. Other issues that fall within the context of the council's jurisdiction which are referred to it by the president of the Republic.

Article 14:

The councils shall be subject to the laws of the state's administrative system in their financial and administrative affairs and in the affairs of their employees.

A decree shall be issued by the president of the Republic setting the remunerations for the councils' members, advisers, and experts.

The financial allocations for the councils shall be included in an independent account in the presidential office budget.

Article 15:

The president of the Republic's decrees 615 of 1974, 716 of 1975, and 220 of 1979 are hereby canceled. Any rule that is at variance with this decree is also canceled.

Article 16:

This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall go into effect on the date of publication.

**Commentary Views Tasks Facing New Government**

*NC0501095196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Clear, Specific Tasks for the New Cabinet To Enter the 21st Century"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The stages of national action in any country are linked. Each stage leads to the next. These stages can overlap, because people's lives and the lives of their countries form part of one continuing fabric. The stage of national action in Egypt that starts with the assumption of executive power by the new cabinet led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri is an extension of previous stages. President Husni Mubarak explained the change in specific terms. In a statement on the occasion, he said that the most important task facing the new government was to raise the standard of living of the low-income people and the people in general. He emphasized that there will be no change in Egypt's policy and that we will speed up the process of economic reform.

Promoting the standard of living of the low-income people may seem simple but in reality it is a major issue of national action in any country and era. Providing a decent standard of living, particularly for the low-income people, and continuously raising the standard of living and ensuring security and stability represent a primary goal of any society.

Since the Egyptian people began their modern life in the 19th century, they have been struggling for clear goals — freedom and dignity — as part of their effort to continuously promote the standard of living. In modern societies, life has become so complicated that it requires extraordinary efforts, particularly by the peoples who lagged behind in progress and failed to cope with continuous development in other societies. The Egyptian people are trying hard, struggling fairly, despite fleeting negative phenomena, to catch up with progress and developments. Criticism and self-criticism, which command attention in Egyptian society, offer cogent proof of its vitality.

Egypt has passed the most difficult stages of economic reform, coping with drastic international developments to become a free economy. Egypt is making sincere efforts and shows awareness in accommodating this transformation to special social circumstances and conditions.

There are sure signs that one of the goals of the cabinet change is to emphasize the commitment to considering the social dimensions of economic developments. Since the beginning of the nineties the world has witnessed a comprehensive movement to organize its economic position based on the market mechanism and competition, which are governed by comprehensive international agreements, such as the GATT Agreement, the establishment of the World Trade Organization, and other agreements. An objective analysis of these drastic changes highlights that the basic conditions for coping with and adjusting to the changes is work and production according to careful planning and a practical perspective defining the fields of work and production to achieve the best results that will reflect positively and tangibly on the lives of the people.

Since the motto of the new government is preparation for the 21st century, this means boundless selflessness and awareness in every area of national action in the political, social, and economic fields. It also means providing the essential framework for success, primarily, eradicating terrorism, ensuring security and stability, adhering to and deepening democracy, and confronting the urgent social problems, such as unemployment, illiteracy, and housing. In sum, our people are heading toward completing the pillars of infrastructure for re[illegible]l

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and progress. Given our people's history, willpower, and struggle, they can enter the 21st century with confidence, ambition, and optimism.

## Libya

### People's Committee Discusses Budget Preparations

*LD0301215296 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The General People's Committee ended its second meeting of 1424 AD [1995-1996], held over three days in al-Sha'b hall in the town of al-Zawiyah. During its meeting, the committee discussed its agenda, which included the preparation of a report that followed up on the implementation of the 1424 AD budget; preparation of the final draft of the general budget for the financial year 1425 AD [1996-1997], which is to be submitted to the Basic People's Congresses; preparation of a bill on the causes of public debts; and the endorsement of a memorandum on financing the great man-made river and the continued flow of its waters, to be submitted to the Basic People's Congresses at their upcoming session.

The committee also revised and adopted the agenda of its first meeting of 1424 AD, and adopted resolutions adopted on determining the measures and arrangements regarding the budgets of the People's Committees of the Basic People's Congresses.

The General People's Committee also endorsed the general report on the work of the People's Committees during 1423 and 1424 AD, submitted to the Basic People's Congresses, in addition to the report of the National Authority for Information and Documentation on its activities, the results concluded from the general population census of 1424 AD, the appointment of a secretary of the General Authority for Youth and Jamahiri Sports, and a secretary of the National Olympics Committee.

## Morocco

### Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

*LD0401133196 Rabat MAP in English 1255 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jan. 4 (Map) — Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, arrived here Wednesday [3 January] with a message from Pakistani Prime Minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, to King Hassan II.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told the press shortly after arrival that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is sending the message to King Hassan II, in his capacity as acting chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The Pakistani foreign minister alongside with Prime Minister Bhutto had participated in the 7th Islamic Conference, held in December 1994 in Casablanca under the chairmanship of King Hassan II.

### German Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

*LD0401133696 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe arrived in Rabat-Sale airport today on a two-day visit to Morocco.

In a statement at the VIP lounge in the airport, the German defense minister pointed out that his visit to Morocco came within the framework of the consolidation of bilateral relations and cooperation between Morocco and a number of organizations, such as NATO and the EU. He also said that his visit aimed at discussing some current issues, such as the participation of the Moroccan and German forces within the multinational forces in former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

## Sudan

### Al-Bashir on Congress, Voters Registration, Uganda

*EA0401215196 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stressed that the national congress, which concluded its deliberations today, has crowned the great efforts of the revolution's method of involving the entire people of Sudan. His Excellency made the remarks at a news conference he held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum today. [passage omitted]

Regarding voters registration, the president said the number of voters registered currently exceeds that of the last election by more than 3 million citizens. This figure, he said, completely tallies with the areas covered by the voters registration exercise.

Regarding the Libyan initiative on relations between Sudan and Uganda, the president said the initiative still stands, however, Uganda aborted it barely two days after it started. He reiterated that Sudan is not hostile to any state. [passage omitted]

### National Congress Secretary General Named

*EA0401164696 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zayn al-Nahhas, chairman of the General Electoral Commission, today declared Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din winner of the

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post of secretary general of the national congress. In brief remarks before a mass gathering at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, Dr. Ghazi stressed that the task delegated to him by the members of the congress is one of firmly establishing the concepts of the political system in all spheres. He said the directives arrived at by the conferees by way of recommendations and the final communique, clearly represent Sudan's political course, adding it will be a vision for future political action. He said we will fight and make peace, and also resist and be humble. Thereafter, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, secretary general of the national congress handed over the recommendations of the congress to the president of the Republic.

**National Congress Issues Final Communique**

*EA0401185096 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The final communique of the National Congress which was submitted to the president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today, stresses that the congress embodies the will of the people. It is the legitimate product of the people's movement that began with people's congresses at grass root level in early 1992 when it was first convened. At the time, 5 million Sudanese participated in the congress and when convened the second time, nearly 7 million did so. [passage omitted]

**'Violent' Fighting Reported Along Border With Uganda**

*AB0401210096 Paris AFP in French 1536 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kampala, 4 Jan (AFP) — Violent fighting is going on between the regular Sudanese A[illegible] and rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] in southern Sudan, near the Ugandan border, many sources in Kampala confirmed today. The fighting, which is reported to have left 300 SPLA soldiers wounded, is said to be taking place near the River Kit. According to Ugandan media, soldiers of the regular Sudanese Army are reportedly digging trenches at many points along the border with Uganda.

Filippo Ciantia, member of an Italian nongovernmental organization, comprising mostly volunteers, said today that he has received eye-witness accounts on this fighting. "We were shown about 300 wounded people in the Labone refugee camp," he told AFP. This camp, which has a dispensary, is situated at about 7 km from the Ugandan border, in an area controlled by the SPLA. According these sources, the regular Sudanese Government troops are said to be posted along the border at Gurumbi and Kadupe, in the Merigo Hills, and Mount Kimba. [passage omitted]

**Libyan Staff Colonel Addresses National Congress**

**Opposes Interference in Red Sea Area**

*EA0401183396 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A member of the Libyan leadership, Staff Colonel Abubakr Yunis Jabir, has commended the great achievements made in Sudan to transfer power to the people. He said the National Salvation Revolution has honored its promise to transfer power to the people, adding that Sudan is capable of more successes and achievements by relying on its people.

Col. Abubakr stressed that Libya is opposed to any interference in Sudan's internal affairs. He said the Libyan Jamahiriyah is eager to see that Sudan enjoys good relations with all its neighbors on the Arab and African levels. Libya is currently working to contain the tensions in the region, he added.

In his address before a huge mass rally convened to mark the conclusion of the National Congress deliberations at the Friendship Hall this morning, the Libyan official stressed that security in the Red Sea region is the responsibility of all Arab states. He said the nation is opposed to any foreign presence in the Red Sea, referring to American and Zionist ambitions in the region. His Excellency stressed the importance of achieving Sudanese-Libyan integration in order to face the challenges before the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

**More on Address**

*LD0501002596 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Abubakr Yunis Jabir this morning attended the concluding session of the Sudanese National Congress. The session was also attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and members of the Libyan Arab delegation accompanying Col. Abubakr Yunis Jabir.

Col. Abubakr Yunis Jabir delivered a speech, at the beginning of which he conveyed the greetings of the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] to the Arab people in brotherly Sudan and his wishes of success for the Sudanese National Congress on the path of the people's authority, the authority of all the people, and the building of the Jamahiri society based on the third universal theory.

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He said that the brother leader of the revolution was hoping to attend the sessions of the congress, however, driven by his pan-Arab responsibilities for developments in the Arab Maghreb, he had to divert his efforts to deal with the emerging problem in the march of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU].

In his speech, Col. Abubakr Yunis Jabir stressed that it was time for the masses of the people's congresses in Sudan to put an end to the rule of elitism and leadership, to lock that door finally and forever, and for the masses to become, through their people's congresses and committee, the rock on which the cravings of those aspiring for the top, under any guise or title, would collapse, whatever the slogans.

He pointed out that the slogans raised had been proven to have failed, and the falsehood of the regimes based on them were being proven daily because this is the era of the masses marching toward a shining tomorrow.

He said that history [word indistinct] is a living expression of the conscience of our nation, which is endeavoring to consolidate its authority out of loyalty to its history, values, and deep-rooted heritage in struggle.

He said that the great Jamahiriyah condemned and denounced the policies followed by some Arab countries of recognizing the enemy and squandering legitimate rights, and believed that no Arab regime had the right to abolish the identity of the Palestinian people and replace them with Israelis.

He added that we are standing by the people of Sudan and their revolution and calling for the rejection of any intervention in Sudan's internal affairs.

He said that we are eager for Sudan to be graced by good neighborly relations in its Arab and African environment. In this context, the tension in the relations between Sudan and Egypt is a matter of concern to us and is inconsistent with the eternal historic relations between the two peoples of the Nile valley. He said that we are trying to contain these tensions and are making efforts to restore relations between Egypt and Sudan to normal to build a real unity and integration between our three countries, which form the heart of the Arab homeland.

He said that meanwhile Libya remains committed to its initiative to end the problems between Uganda and Sudan within the framework of the undertakings reached by the leader of the revolution with presidents Umar al-Bashir and Yoweri Museveni in preparation for restoring relations to their normal course, as the Nile flows in its course and its benefits pour into the African countries that are attached to it, and it is attached to them in the same way as the arteries are attached to the heart.

He said that all the Arab countries overlooking the Red Sea were responsible for any threat to its security. The Red Sea was and still is an Arab sea and, consequently, we denounce any intrusion and any foreign presence there. We reject the presence of the U.S. Fifth Fleet in the Red Sea waters. This is proof of the U.S. covetous ambitions there in order to obstruct communications between the Arab nation and the rest of the world and to serve the Israelis interests who strive together with the Americans to disturb Arab relations.

Events proved this, when they incited strife between Yemen and Eritrea over Greater Hanish island. It is an Arab island, by name, geographically and historically. We call for the settlement of differences between countries by talks and peaceful means.

He added that the Great Jamahiriah and the Republic of the Sudan are bound by the integration declaration, approved and confirmed by the people's committees, for it is a step towards the realisation of Arab unity.

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## Kuwait

### Interior Minister Cited on Stability of Country

*MM0301135796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 96 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Ghunaym al-Mutayri: "No Extremists in Kuwait; Gulf Security Can Only Be Completed By Unifying It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah stressed yesterday that "the security situation in Kuwait is stable because of the cooperation among the police, citizens, and residents." In a statement to AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT before leaving Kuwait for Tunis to participate in the Arab interior ministers meetings, Shaykh 'Ali said that "investigations are still continuing to identify who is behind the arms seized recently on a farm in the al-Wafrah area, south of Kuwait."

Shaykh 'Ali said that "terrorism has become an international phenomenon from which all world states are suffering." However, he stressed "the importance of the cohesion among the Kuwaiti people, among whom there are no extremists."

Shaykh 'Ali praised the cooperation among security organs in the Gulf Cooperation Council states, stressing that "Gulf security can only be completed by unifying it."

He stressed that there are no political prisoners in Kuwait. He revealed that "25,000 'bidun' [those without nationality] have submitted applications for Kuwaiti nationality, but the cases that deserve to be considered do not exceed 99."

On the drug smuggling phenomenon in Kuwait Shaykh 'Ali said that "the Interior Ministry has drawn up plans and reinforced them with national cadres to combat drug trafficking and use, and the campaigns staged by the police against smugglers have succeeded. The most recent campaign was the operation in which a gang led by a Pakistani, which had tried to smuggle about 30 kg of drugs by sea, was arrested."

On what has been reported by some media services about human rights violations in Kuwaiti prisons, the Kuwaiti interior minister denied any human right violations, describing Kuwait as "a state of the law, and the Kuwaiti Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion and ideology." He added that "Kuwait has gone beyond that as regards dealing with those violating the law, as it has allowed some Jordanian families that do not have a residence permit in Kuwait to visit their sons and relatives in Kuwait jails — the first gesture of its kind in the world."

He added: "Kuwait did not agree to the establishment of a security center in Cairo for the Mediterranean states, because this matter does not concern it; it concerns the states situated on the Mediterranean." He attributed this rejection to the fact that "there is a security center in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which belongs to the Arab League, is a joint center, and achieves all the aims required of it for all the Arab states, including those situated on the Mediterranean"

## Saudi Arabia

### King Reportedly To Have Knee Surgery in Switzerland

*NC0401211296 Paris AFP in English 2003 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 4 (AFP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who handed over power to his half-brother, Crown Prince 'Abdallah, may travel to Switzerland in the next few days to have an operation on his knees, a report said Thursday [4 January].

Citing well-informed Saudi sources, the Arabic-language daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi said the 74-year-old ailing king "will travel abroad in coming days to receive treatment."

"It is probable that the monarch will go to Switzerland to receive an operation on his knees," the London-based newspaper said. The daily said the operation "is aimed at ending the pain King Fahd has been suffering, which caused him to use pain-killers and brought on his heart problem" in late November.

The paper also said the "increased struggle over the succession within the royal family speeded up the transfer of power to the crown prince."

The king, 74, asked Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to "run the affairs of state" on Monday while he recovered from an undisclosed illness which hospitalised him for a week last month.

However, a western diplomat in Riyadh said he did not expect King Fahd to recover or return to power. "The king is suffering from serious after-effects which are irreversible," he told AFP.

Doctors and diplomats said the overweight king, who already had diabetes and circulation problems, suffered a blood clot on the brain. He left hospital on December 7 but was ordered by doctors to rest.

His condition has been watched closely by oil markets nervous about any possible upheaval in the world's leading oil producer and exporter.

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**Government To Allow Entry of Palestinian Goods**

*JN0401092196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jan 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia agreed to allow the entry of Palestinian products to Saudi Arabia. The Palestinian Embassy in Amman received an official letter from the Saudi Embassy in Jordan to this effect. The letter includes the text of a Saudi cabinet decision stipulating certain measures governing the entry of Palestinian goods into Saudi Arabia via Jordan and Egypt.

The Saudi decision provides that importing Palestinian goods shall be exclusively done by the businessmen and Arab trading companies which have been accustomed to exporting such goods, and that these businessmen and companies must be listed at the Saudi customs department and the Saudi Embassies in Jordan or Egypt.

Moreover, the decision stipulates that the Palestinian goods should bear the certificate of origin issued by the Palestinian body concerned and by authorization from the National Authority. These goods should be approved by the Saudi Embassy in Amman or Cairo. The invoice should be directly issued by the Palestinian producer without the help of brokers or agents.

**Joint Meeting on Border With Yemen Concludes**

*LD0301152896 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceedings of the Joint Saudi-Yemeni Committee for renewing [Border] Markings concluded this morning at the conference palace in Riyadh Conference Palace. The committee began its first meeting last Wednesday. The committee has issued the following joint communique:

The Saudi and Yemeni sides in the joint committee for the fourth round of meetings for the renewal of [border] marks stipulated in the second clause of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sisterly countries on 26 February 1995. It held its meetings between 27 December 1995 and 3 January 1996.

An atmosphere of genuine brotherly spirit prevailed and subjective discussion and mutual understanding permeated these meetings. The points of view on both sides were identical in the matters which were discussed. Both sides have expressed their satisfaction at the progress of the actions of the technical field teams. Members of the joint team have been named in this round's minutes which were signed by the heads of the two sides: Staff General Muray' Bin Hassan al-Shahrani, head of the Saudi side, and Dr. Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik al-'Alfi, head of the Yemeni side.

It has been decided to hold the fifth round in Yemen on 12 March.

**CDLR Issues Press Release on al-Mas'ari Issue**

*MS0501105996 London CDLR Monitor in English 4 Jan 96*

[Press release in response to the Home Office]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr. Mohammed al-Mas'ari yesterday (3/1/1996) received a letter from room 605 of the Home Office informing him that his application for asylum had been refused. This refusal has been decided "without substantive consideration of the claim". Another letter was received, giving reasons and quoting the implementation of paragraph 8(1)(c)(iv) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 and paragraph 345 (ii) of the Immigration Rules (HC 395). It was therefore decided that Dr al-Mas'ari could "be removed to Dominica which is a signatory of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees".

In response to that Dr al-Mas'ari will appeal and will take the legal process, if necessary, to the High Court. Dr al-Mas'ari believes that there is a strong argument in his favour and that the court will be convinced that the Home Office decision is wrong.

The CDLR is very disappointed that this unprecedented use of the above paragraphs was made to please various interested parties as was admitted indirectly by the minister of the Home Office.

It has always been our and others belief that Britain was one of the most secure shelters for those seeking human rights and that it would never compromise her principles. This move, however, has proved that the contrary is true.

We are sure that those who support human rights, be they individuals or groups, will feel very uncomfortable with this news. It is fairly sure that all these will join with us in the appeal against what we see as a bad decision. Dr. al-Mas'ari is not to be used as a pawn in the games of governments.

## Yemen

**Diplomatic Relations Established With South Africa**

*JN0301202096 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] It was announced today that our country and South Africa established diplomatic relations. According to the announcement, the Yemeni Republic and South Africa agreed to establish diplomatic

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relations at ambassadorial level proceeding from their true desire to reinforce friendly relations between them and their peoples in all fields and guided by the objectives and principles of the United Nations and the two Vienna treaties on diplomatic and consular ties. This also comes as a contribution by both countries to bolster peaceful relations between peoples and countries everywhere.

Our country's ambassador to Ethiopia presented Yemen's memorandum approving the establishment of relations, and exchanged memorandums with South Africa's ambassador to Ethiopia.

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### New Culture, Information Minister Assumes Duties

*JN0401202696 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur today assumed his new duties as minister of culture and information. During a hand-over ceremony at the ministry, outgoing Minister of Culture and Information Hamid Yusuf Hammadi reviewed with the new minister the status of the ministry and the agencies affiliated with it, the assignments they are carrying out, and the difficulties they are facing.

Afterward, Minister of Culture and Information 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur delivered a speech, in which he said that he was honored to have been assigned the post of culture and information minister by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, at this critical phase in the history of our homeland and nation, in which Iraq will focus on the continued confrontation of the schemes hatched by imperialism, Zionism, and their agents. Iraq will also make a concerted effort to confront the hostile and paid trumpets, which are launching a campaign to arrest great Iraq's quest for progress. At this phase, Iraq will seek to abort and thwart these schemes, the new minister maintained.

Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur then met with the ministry's directors general. In a speech during the meeting, the minister underscored the importance of the Ministry of Culture and Information as well as its great role in the battle great Iraq is waging against hostile powers. He noted the efforts the ministry made on the Great March Day, when the magnanimous Iraqis renewed the pledge of absolute allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn. All the agencies affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Information played a vigorous role in covering this unique democratic practice, the minister said.

The minister added: During the next phase, we will seek to uphold nationalist principles, effect awareness, and embrace the economic principles enshrined in the message his excellency the leader president addressed to the Council of Ministers with a view to achieving total victory and securing the crossing to safe shores, which is possible, God willing, thanks to the wisdom of leader Saddam Husayn.

The hand-over ceremony was attended by Nuri al-Marsumi, senior under secretary at the Ministry.

### Official Reportedly Paid 'Secret' Visit to Syria

*JN0501121596 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 3 Jan 96 p 11*

[Unattributed "exclusive" report from Baghdad and Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, paid a secret visit to Damascus in the middle of last week and held talks with Syrian officials to restore and normalize relations after 17 years of estrangement.

The Iraqi official's visit was shrouded in secrecy. He did not enter Syria via Jordan, but through the Syrian-Iraqi highway of al- Rutbah, which has been closed all these years.

Reliable sources told SAWT AL-MAR'AH that the Syrian side agreed to resume relations with Iraq and take future measures to reopen the Syrian embassy in Baghdad. However, the Iraqi official did not obtain the green light for restoring and normalizing trade and economic relations any time soon, because the Syrian leadership still had some of its previous reservations and suspicions.

The Iraqi leadership has continued its strenuous efforts to break the deadlock and find another outlet to the outside world. [passage omitted]

### Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

#### Meets With Industry Minister

*JN0401165896 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Minister of Industry and Minerals 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid today met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The talks addressed economic and industrial cooperation between Iraq and the Russian Federation, ways to promote this cooperation, and the preparations under way for convening meetings of the joint Iraqi-Russian committee for economic and technical cooperation in Moscow.

The meeting was attended by the two under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

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**Discusses Ties With al-Sahhaf**

*JN0401203496 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The foreign minister underlined the importance of promoting bilateral ties on the basis of common interests to achieve mutual benefits and coordinate the joint efforts under way to accelerate lifting the unfair Iraq sanctions.

Posuvalyuk expressed his country's readiness to promote relations with Iraq in all areas, and to do everything possible to lift the sanctions.

The two sides discussed bilateral ties, ways to promote them, and the latest developments in relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council in light of Iraq's full cooperation with the Special Commission. They also exchanged views on the most important regional and international issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, the head of the ministry's Third Political Department, the head of the ministry's Organizations Department, and the Russian ambassador in Baghdad.

**Columnist Views 'U.S. Failure' in North**

*JN0501122396 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Dec 95 p 2*

["Standpoint" column by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi: "Admission of Failure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has failed miserably despite the lapse of more than five years since the blockade and the destruction it has wrought with its followers in the autonomous region in northern Iraq. It has failed in its attempt to forge the will of our Kurdish people, distort their national identity, and separate them from their Iraqi skin and soul.

This major fact has been confirmed by the course of events and acknowledged by several U.S. and British experts, whose governments today are taking part in consolidating the anomalous situation in the northern part of the Iraqi homeland through the so-called "Hammer Force" in Turkey.

The British magazine THE MIDDLE EAST has recently published an extensive report on the autonomous region under the headline: "The Kurds in Crisis." The report was written by French journalist Chris Kutschera, an expert on Kurdish affairs living in Paris, who says that Kurds describe their region in the absence of the central government as "a big prison" and "a country without law or hope." This British magazine, and not any Iraqi magazine, says Talabani has stripped the area under his control of all installations and factories of public benefit and smuggled them out to Iran. The magazine quotes our Kurdish citizens as saying "the Americans are using the Kurds as a pressure card against the Baghdad government, but they have failed in this endeavor, just as they have failed to achieve a reconciliation between Talabani and Barzani, and they do not want to admit their failure."

Western sources' admission of the failure of U.S. policy against Iraq, especially the pressure being brought to bear on it from the autonomous region, means that the central government's return to the region has become a public demand, which is being dictated by established facts in the region, where citizens are expressing through every possible means their desire to live under one Iraqi Government, away from foreign interference and the sound of militia gunfire, where there is no law or government institutions, which citizens are in need of this modern age. The British magazine confirms the situation in northern Iraq is tragic in every sense of the word, and that the people there are eagerly awaiting the return of the central government.

The question here is: What will Clinton and Major say when they read the report in the British magazine? Will they continue telling lies and issuing deceptive statements about ensuring "security, comfort, and protection for Kurds" from the government, as if our government was coming from overseas like the U.S. and British invasion forces themselves?

The best that Americans can do for our people in the north is to leave them alone so that they may live in security, freedom, and stability with their brothers, the sons of the one Iraqi people, under the government of the 17-30 July Revolution, headed by leader symbol Saddam Husayn, who drafted the autonomy law and transformed the region from a state of backwardness and poverty to a state of progress, civilization, and better health and cultural conditions.

When we hear today about cholera epidemics among our brothers and sons in the autonomous region, our hearts are seared with pain. There are bonds of kinship between Iraqis which cannot be comprehended by the colonialists, smugglers of goods and currencies, and the partners of the foreigner in the blockade of the homeland.

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**Turkish Envoy on Iraqi Sovereignty Over Kurdish Area**

*JN0501110296 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Dec 95 p 2*

[Report by Mahdiyah Salih]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Center of International Studies at the Political Science College has invited Sadi Calislar, Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad, to a forum attended by professors and heads of departments and branches from the college.

Addressing the forum, Calislar explored the distinct, historical Iraqi-Turkish relations and ways of upgrading them to a level of mutual understanding and respect as befits the common historical, cultural, and religious bonds between the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

The charge d'affaires affirmed Turkey's strong position on Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, saying Turkey views this matter seriously and considers it an urgent issue which it defends in international forums. He said Turkey constantly affirms Iraq's unity and sovereignty, since this also strengthens Turkish security. He added that the future of Iraq and the resolution of its problems should take place within Iraq and through the Iraqi people themselves, and not through any other party.

Calislar expressed Turkey's hopes that the suffering of the fraternal and friendly Iraqi people would end soon. Regarding developments in northern Iraq, he said they are also a source of anxiety for Turkey. He added: Those movements which oppose Iraqi authority in northern Iraq also affect Turkey, which hopes that the region will soon revert to Iraqi national sovereignty. Those movements cannot possibly get any support from Turkey. Calislar said the solution to the problem lies in holding a dialogue between the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi citizens in northern Iraq and that third parties should not have any role in the resolution of this issue.

Calislar said: The world must not overlook the fact that northern Iraq falls within Iraqi sovereignty, and that its citizens are Iraqis. Therefore, Turkey calls upon the international community to act according to these considerations. Calislar also said his country is determined to continue its present policy toward northern Iraq, and that it will not deviate from it.

The Turkish charge d'affaires also spoke about Turkish foreign policy and its regional and international inclinations. He affirmed the basic principles of this policy by saying that Turkey fights terrorism and calls for its elimination. Turkey's main aim, he said, is to share this concept of terrorism with its neighbors. He said that Turkey is from the western world and Europe, but that it is also an integral part of the Middle East. Turkey works for the unity of a European Union, he concluded.

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**Beilin: No 'Real Change' in Talks With Syrians**

*TA0501094596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Minister Yosi Beilin by Arye Golan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Golan] What news do you have about the negotiations in Maryland?

[Beilin] There is no doubt that the last two rounds of talks, including yesterday's deliberations, were very special. Not since October 1991 have we had such talks with the Syrians in terms of the informality on both sides and their willingness to reach a deep understanding. In this respect, I think this is a real change. However, when it comes to matters of substance, especially relevant issues such as normalization, security arrangements, and borders — some of the issues were not discussed at all, and some....

[Golan, interrupting] Namely, the borders and the substance or quality of the peace have not yet been raised.

[Beilin] The quality of the peace has definitely been discussed, but the issue of security arrangements was not raised in this round of talks because there were no professionals present in accordance with Syria's demand. This will happen, I hope, in the next rounds of talks.

In any event, one cannot say that there has been a real change or, perhaps, even that there has been any change at all in Syria's traditional positions. It may very well be that when it comes to the substantial issues both sides find that nothing revolutionary happened here beyond the procedural openness. The Syrian media has been saying that our pronouncements remind them of the Rabin government, as if we had ever promised to change the positions of the Rabin government. Therefore, what they are saying now is quite similar or identical to what they said in the past.

[Golan] So why are the Americans talking about a new atmosphere?

[Beilin] There is no doubt that they are right. As a man who has had some experience in negotiations, I can say that a new atmosphere is not just a technical matter. A new atmosphere could ultimately break the ice on matters of substance. I'd say that there has not been a substantial change yet. In this respect, a great onus is being placed on U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, who in his upcoming visit will have to shuttle between the two sides and speak on the political level, which did not happen in the talks.

[Golan] Have your doubts about Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's peace intentions been removed in the wake of the aforementioned new atmosphere in the talks?

[Beilin] I think something basic happened four years ago, which is President al-Asad's willingness to talk peace with Israel after many years when he did not consider that an option. However, it seems to me that so far he has not proved that the peace he is talking about differs from a peace on his own terms. And, I do not think that significant progress can be made on his terms. Only willingness to budge from his original conditions and meet our positions halfway will ultimately enable peace, and we do have no time to spare.

[Golan] In other words, we are still bogged down.

[Beilin] I would not say that. I would say that something very important happened over the last few days between Israel and Syria, when, for the first time after four years, we could really talk. This talking, because of its openness, could also lead to peace. I can only say that this talking has not yet led to a substantial breakthrough. Shuttle diplomacy may very well be the next step leading to such a breakthrough, if the Syrians have indeed decided — beyond their willingness in principle to accept peace on their own terms — to go for a peace that is based on compromise.

[Golan] Another question, sir. Under what conditions will the Israeli elections be brought forward? According to some reports, this will happen if there is a breakthrough, while others say that they will be brought forward if there is no breakthrough and the negotiations are stuck. It is quite confusing.

[Beilin] Personally, I am not thrilled about the idea of bringing the elections forward. We have another 10 months, and every day where the peace process can be advanced either on the Syrian, Lebanese, or Palestinian tracks is one day that should not be wasted.

[Golan] That is also the prime minister's position on the issue.

[Beilin] I would like to add something else on the issue. If we bring the elections forward by a few months we will have a hard time pursuing the peace process after the elections because we will find the Americans in the midst of their own election campaign and elections, at the end of which we do not know whether the same administration will remain or not. In other words, theoretically speaking, early elections could prolong the period in which it will be impossible to promote peace process from a few months to six or almost nine months. In this respect, I believe this is a very serious problem.

[Golan] Minister Beilin, thank you very much.

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**Baraq Urges 'Patience' in Talks With Syria**

*TA0401160296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq assesses that Israel will find out whether Syria is a partner for negotiations within several weeks. Baraq declares that the talks between the two sides may continue for many months. Baraq made these remarks during a visit to Arab and Druze villages in western Galilee. Our correspondent Qobi Mandel reports:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq warns against exaggerated optimism in the renewed talks with Syria. Today he said that we cannot expect extraordinary results in talks held over a period of one or two days. Baraq said, moreover, that it is still not clear whether Israel has a real partner for negotiations. Consequently, the key word at this point is patience.

[Baraq] Political negotiations aimed at solving conflicts that have gone on for dozens of years cannot follow the pace of newscasts or daily newspaper editions. We need patience. I believe that within a few weeks we will know whether we have a serious partner for negotiations or not. If the answer is affirmative, we will proceed with the negotiations — which can continue for many months. At this point we are not talking about withdrawal lines but are rather striving to clarify the substance of peace: whether there is a partner for a real, broad, and comprehensive peace; for normalization and cooperation. This is the main test.

[Mandel] Minister Baraq, who today met Labor activists in Shefar'am, was asked about the prime minister's remarks regarding the nuclear option in the era of peace.

[Baraq] Our position on this issue is unalterable — and this is the prime minister's position as well. This position has not changed and cannot change; it is not a matter of tactics or politics, but is rather a fundamental position on a matter of existence and stems from our responsibility for the security and existence of Israel and the future of its citizens and its future generations. Regardless of the question of what we possess or do not, we have no intention of dealing with this issue before we have a full peace — similar to that prevailing in West Europe — in the entire relevant area, far beyond the borders of the Middle East. In my opinion the whole issue is at this point unripe for concrete discussion. We have an unalterable position that is extremely important and that will remain unchanged. [end recording]

**Golan Apartment Sales Said 'Political Maneuver'**

*TA0501120196 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by 'Ofer Petersburg]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the progress made in the talks with Syria, the Construction and Housing Ministry will put 500 housing units it owns on the Golan Heights up for sale.

The surprising directive coming from Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer's office to market the new housing units greatly surprised senior ministry officials. The move involves 10-year old apartments in Qatzrin, most of which are rented out to career army officers serving on the Golan Heights.

The bodies involved in the large sale have already prepared to market the apartments and will issue an official announcement next week.

In one of his recent visits to the north, Ben-Eli'ezer said that as long as Israel remains on the Golan Heights, life should go on as usual. Senior Construction and Housing Ministry sources who are close to the minister claim that this is a political maneuver carried out in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office in a bid to signal the Syrians they had better facilitate the negotiations.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 5 January includes a report by Menahem Horowitz on Minister Ben-Eli'ezer's visit to the Upper Galilee today adding: "Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer emphasized that his ministry will continue with the development of Qatzrin and the settlements on the Golan Heights."

[In a recorded passage, Ben-Eli'ezer says: "We are committed to the security and wellbeing of Golan Heights residents. I believe that what we have done on the Golan Heights in terms of roads and infrastructure is unprecedented. I do not think that at the moment there is a housing shortage on the Golan Heights."]

**Controversy Over U.S. Defense Pact Proposal**

*TA0501101196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 96 p A5*

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will propose that the United States establish a joint working group to examine the concept of an American-Israeli defense pact and the establishment of a regional defense pact in the Middle East in parallel with the attainment of peace with Syria.

This was concluded yesterday by Shim'on Peres, the prime minister and defense minister, following a dis-

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cussion devoted to tightening strategic relations with the United States.

The discussion was held in anticipation of the visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry next Monday [8 January].

Peres will apparently raise the Israeli proposal for examining the possibility of establishing these defense pacts in his meetings with Perry.

Yesterday's discussion was also attended by Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq and senior defense establishment and Foreign Ministry officials.

The Foreign Ministry officials expressed reservations about establishing a defense pact with the United States, saying this will necessitate a change in the basic defense concept of Israel, such as relating to preserving its qualitative edge and its own deterrent capability.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV on 5 January page 2 includes a 600-word report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Ben Kaspit adding: "The Foreign Ministry recommended that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres not act on establishing a defense pact with the United States. Peres was presented with the conclusions at a special discussion of the issue this week."

["According to the Foreign Ministry, a defense pact has more disadvantages than advantages. The Foreign Ministry recommends upgrading the strategic relations between the two countries without using the framework of an official defense pact in order not to tie Israel's hands and restrict its freedom of action."]

Most of the defense establishment officials who spoke during the discussion also did not express support for a mutual defense pact with the United States.

Minister Baraq, who referred to the idea of a regional defense alliance, said that defense cooperation will develop only in the last stage of creating regional institutions, and that we must start out by developing economic cooperation and confidence building measures, as has been already started in the arms control talks.

Peres did not express an opinion and summed up the discussion in the spirit of the Defense Ministry recommendation, namely, to launch a dialogue with the Americans which will clarify the aims of the defense pacts, their spheres of operation, and ways to establish them. In yesterday's discussion Peres did not raise the issue of the "security package" Israel will request from the United States in support of an arrangement with Syria — including the proposal to purchase Tomahawk cruise missiles.

This security package was included on the discussion's agenda, but eventually was not raised.

**Decision on Kfir Sale to Ecuador 'Later This Month'**

*TA0501064796 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 96 p A10*

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A decision about the aircraft deal with Ecuador will be made later this month, security sources told HA'ARETZ yesterday. According to these sources, by the first of February the United States expects to hear whether Israel is prepared to put off the sale of the four Kfirs so as not to cast a pall on the peace talks between Ecuador and Peru.

A wave of anti-Israeli reports continues in the Ecuadoran press in connection with the deal.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 5 January adds: "Ecuador's foreign minister summoned Israel's ambassador in Quito, the capital, to discuss his country's concern over reports that Israel was going to put off the planned sale of four Kfir planes to Ecuador. The American Embassy in Quito has denied that any pressure was put on Israel to cancel the deal due to pressure put on the United States by Peru, which shares a border with Ecuador."]

**Ministers Split on Need for Early Elections**

*TA0401142896 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 96 p 9*

[Report by Yo'av Limor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately one half of cabinet ministers support the call for early Knesset elections. This transpires from a survey conducted by MA'ARIV.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has recently reiterated that he opposes the idea, many ministers expressed support for bringing the elections forward. Coalition chairman Ra'anan Kohen, who also serves as deputy chairman of the Central Elections Committee, said yesterday that "elections could be held within 90 days of reaching a decision."

Labor Party sources yesterday estimated that if the elections were brought forward, they would be held in June 1995. Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili said yesterday that he supported calling early elections, noting that if a bill was presented to this effect, "I would recommend that Peres support it." Peres himself said yesterday: "It is a waste to spend any day that can be exploited for promoting the peace process on elections." Peres hinted, however: "If it becomes clear that we have to call a halt to things, we will." These are the results of the MA'ARIV survey:

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Those in support of early elections:

Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban: "I think that we must not drag out the election process, which has already begun, over a whole year. This will lead to the further degradation of the political and public systems and everything will revert to what it was before the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin."

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer: "We face fateful decisions and there is no reason for the government to make them while dependent on a narrow majority."

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid: "If there is no breakthrough with Syria, it is preferable to hold elections — because then, with a renewed mandate from the public, we will be able to pursue the process over the coming years.

Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein: "We have to stop the horse trading in the Knesset. The Knesset no longer represents the public and it is clear to me that if we hold elections, the left will win big."

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat: "I will support early elections in the event of a breakthrough with the Syrians or difficulties with our Knesset majority."

Shulamit Aloni, minister of communications, science, and the arts: "I will do whatever is good for Shim'on Peres because what is important is that he be reelected. If this means early elections, then I will support this.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Gonen Segev: "Since the issue on the agenda is Syria, we should hold early elections in which the withdrawal from the Golan Heights features as the most prominent issue."

Interior Minister Hayim Ramon refused to comment; MA'ARIV has learned, however, that Ramon has already discussed the matter with senior Labor Party officials and said he would support bringing the elections forward if this was warranted by circumstances.

Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq: "I do not want to discuss this." Nevertheless, Baraq is known to support early elections in principle.

Those opposed to early elections:

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres: has recently voiced opposition to calling early elections on numerous occasions. Has said in the past that he would do so only if the coalition encountered problems with regard to its Knesset majority.

Health Minister Efrayim Sne: "Our term is set by law and there is no reason to call early elections. Why? Have we lost our Knesset majority?"

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir: "I do not believe in these tricks. Anything that can be to our benefit in four months will also be there in 10 months."

Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish: "Why should we embark on such an adventure? We must not be dragged into this before we have completed our internal deployment for the elections so as not to grant the opposition unnecessary gifts that will only benefit it at the ballot box."

Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal: "We must exhaust the negotiations with the Syrians. They will not understand such a move and will view it as an attempt to avoid continuing the negotiations."

Yosi Beilin, minister in Prime Minister's Office: "I am for exhausting the possibilities of this term in office. We received a mandate from the people to make peace and we cannot give up even one minute."

Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur: "I do not see any reason for this because I am against political gimmicks. Experience shows that there is a tremendous gap between the moment one decides to call early elections and the real issues one subsequently puts to the test in the elections."

Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, minister without portfolio: "I do not back upheavals. Ostensibly, being a minister I should support bringing forward the elections, but this is certainly not the reason. The government should exhaust its mandate, and since I do not expect a breakthrough with Syria, I find it hard to believe that we will have to declare early elections."

Other opinions:

Justice Minister David Liba'i: "I support holding elections at their scheduled date, unless we have difficulties maintaining our Knesset majority."

Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am refused to comment.

Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar was not available for comment.

**Nativ Reportedly Admits Bringing in Russian Funds**

*TA0501121996 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT [LESHABAT supplement] in Hebrew 5 Jan 96 pp 6, 7*

[Article by Aharon Barne'a: "I.'s Ticking Bomb"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Not long ago, the prime minister convened an emergency discussion on the Russian mafia. The deliberations were initiated by Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal who is very concerned about the scope of the Russian mafia's penetration into Israel. One of those invited to attend

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was I., head of Nativ, also called Natif-Bar, or the Liaison Office, the secret organization in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Jews in the CIS.

As an example, Shahal detailed an affair involving a Jew who had been deputy prime minister of the Ukraine entering Israel, who brought a huge amount of money here in one or more suitcases. The Ukrainian Government claims that the money was stolen from it and smuggled into Israel.

The participants in the discussion wanted to know how much was brought in.

I. said, "$300 million."

Silence fell over the room. $300 million! There are states where that is the annual GNP.

Peres recovered first. "How do you know," he asked I.

I. smiled. "Because we moved the money for him."

As often happens with I., his listeners did not know whether he was joking or serious. They did not even ask. Their experience has taught them that curiosity kills or incriminates. In Israel, whoever pokes his nose into the affairs of secret organizations gets it cut off. Whoever divulges, gets whacked. Therefore, it is preferable to let I. do whatever he wants in the his Russian shadowlands, as long as he does not get the state involved.

Secrecy is the key to I.'s immunity. In Moscow, every wheeler dealer knows who he is, and gives him the appropriate respect. In Israel he is unknown. The secrecy gives him distinction, which nobody else in the aliya department has. It saves him from the need to give answers. In particular, it defends his bosses from the need to oversee.

No longer. For weeks Nativ has been a time bomb in the Prime Minister's Office. The State Comptroller's Office passed to the Prime Minister's Office a series of questions relating to Nativ's activities. Rabin knew about the investigation and the gravity of the findings, but the paper reached his office only after Rabin's death. The questions allegedly point to suspicions of what sources in the Prime Minister's Office call mismanagement and financial irregularities. Others call it corruption.

The organization's activities are mostly funded by the various government ministries, especially the Education Ministry. It is doubtful whether the ministries know what is being done with their funds, and whether what was done was always worthy.

On the other hand, nobody claims that the government did not observe the organization's activities. It invited its officials on exciting tours of the CIS countries, where they were deeply impressed by the scope of his ties and the way they were hosted. It is doubtful whether there was any supervision. That is why not only I. is now concerned about the state comptroller's questions. Also worried are Education Ministry officials, including those who were supposed to supervise him, starting from Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman down, and officials in the Prime Minister's Office. Military Secretary Dani Yatom, Director General Tzvi Alderotti, and legal adviser Ahaz Ben-Ari worked on the responses. They did not find good answers. They are now talking about setting up a new team to thoroughly study Nativ's activities. The big news is that Shim'on Peres is ready to seriously consider proposals to abolish Nativ and transfer its main activities to the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

### Commentary Views Le'a Rabin; Left, Right Wings

*TA0501091496 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 4 Jan 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Le'a Rabin lambasted the two Likud Knesset members who protested her receiving an office, secretary and driver at the expense of the Israeli government. The Likud Knesset proposed that the perks be given to Le'a Rabin on condition that she refrain from addressing political issues and that she speak responsibly without inciting against Bar Ilan university and the religious and right wing population of Israel.

Le'a Rabin responded with her usual contempt for democracy and hatred for Bar Ilan by saying, "Bar Ilan is not among those who are responsible for national unity...Margalit Har-Shefi (Yig'al 'Amir's ex-friend) walks around on campus like a queen. I would throw her off the campus. The atmosphere in Bar Ilan is ugly and there is no attempt being made to vomit out extremists."

Le'a Rabin also said that the media must be prevented from interviewing the family of the suspected assassin. And that she was working hard to prevent Channel 2 T.V. from showing an interview of Yig'al 'Amir's father which was done by the BBC. Judean Voice Commentary:

Bar Ilan continues to apologize and mourn for Rabin as if there is anything they can do to stop the rabid haters from inciting against them. The more they prostrate themselves before the left, the more they are blamed. What haven't they already done. They have recently invited Yosi Sarid and tens of other vicious leftists to speak and visit the campus. And they still don't love us?

Bar Ilan has the same illness that the rest of the national religious and right wing camp has. It is called guilt,

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fear and self hatred. It plagues every Jew. The left wing lemmings implement suicidal policies in their futile attempt to buy the love of the Gentile. And the "moderate right" beats their breast in agony over the Rabin assassination and does anything to promote "unity" in their futile attempt to buy the love of the "enlightened left".

That is why the Likud and Mafdal [National Religious Party — NRP] hate Kahana more than even Labor. After every word of condemnation that the "sane right" utters against the right wing "extremists" and after the expulsion of students who indirectly praised the assassination, Bar Ilan surely asks themselves the same question that the confused leftists asks himself after every Arab attack, "why do they still hate us"?

Where was the uproar when Bar Ilan expelled students for "holding views of the extreme right"? Where were all of the intellectual democratic experts when Yitzhaq Numan was driven off campus by the administration for allegedly writing "ding dong the witch is dead" on the Internet, after the Rabin assassination? The right can shout "witch hunt" all they want but they themselves are guilty of the same. 'Arutz 7 and the Jewish Press can cry all day about censorship of the left. However, both of those brave bastions of democracy and freedom of speech continue to ban Kahana comments on any and every news item, regardless of how news worthy the story may be. 'Arutz 7 refused to even advertise details about Rabbi Kahana's memorial, grave-site ceremony, even a paid ad. Anyone else can buy an ad. on 'Arutz 7, even Yosi Sarid. Similarly, there was not one word published in the JEWISH PRESS to remember Rabbi Kahana on his annual memorial, despite the fact that Rabbi Kahana served as an editor for the JEWISH PRESS and wrote 3 columns in the paper, until his assassination.

Bar Ilan and the majority of the right are not only frightened frauds, but guilty of the same witch hunt allegations that they fling at their leftist partners.

At least Le'a Rabin says what she thinks. Her words may be detested by all Jews who treasure democracy or Judaism, however, she has every right to speak. Someone should teach her and the other wise right and left democrats in Israel that Kahana and Yig'al 'Amir's family should have no less of a right to speak, if Israel was indeed a democracy.

How ironic that Yig'al 'Amir's family and Kahana have to give interviews to the non-Jewish media because Jews, even good Jews boycott them. How ironic that CNN and BBC feel that it is news worthy, while the so called right wing Jewish media claims that it is not interesting enough for them.

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**Palace Denies Israeli Paper Report on 'Fears'**

*JN0401200996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court has denied a report by the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that during Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's recent visit to Amman, Jordan expressed fears regarding the beginning of the establishment of a Palestinian entity and the achievement of progress on the Syrian-Israeli peace talks track, which could weaken the Jordanian role.

The source said that Jordan fully supports the Palestinian people in their attempt to attain their legitimate rights on their national soil and that Jordan continues to fully support the legitimate Palestinian leadership and its efforts to secure the Palestinian legitimate rights. The source added that Jordan will never interfere in Palestinian affairs except within the framework of supporting the Palestinian citizens and their leadership, noting that Jordan began the peace process with Israel at the same time Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians did so at the Madrid conference. The source added that Jordan always called for and sought to achieve a comprehensive peace. It said that the feeling in Jordan is of optimism with respect to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and that Jordan welcomes the successful initial results of these negotiations.

In conclusion, Jordan considers as a noble objective the achievement of comprehensive peace in the region by any party or by all parties.

**Paper Responds to Israeli Article**

*JN0501093296 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 95 pp 1, 31*

[Editorial: "Jordan's Firm Position on Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We would have hoped that the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST would have weighed carefully its reports about Jordan in general and its leader in particular regarding the peace process in the region before publishing them, not only because these reports are totally baseless, as the Royal Court announced yesterday in reply to these reports, but also because they directly follow the new Israeli foreign minister's first visit to Jordan, and come on the eve of His Majesty King Husayn's first visit to Israel. These facts put the reports under suspicion and show that this paper lacks diplomatic tact.

To begin with, it is widely known that Jordan went to the Madrid peace talks along with all the other concerned parties, namely the Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians. Thereafter, Jordan, along with everyone else, moved onto the bilateral negotiations at their various stages. Jordan backed every accomplishment made on the path of peace and made every effort to support all the sincere endeavors to achieve the honorable goal of peace. It was Jordan which termed this peace the peace of coming generations, and of the peoples who have endured the woes of war and who deserve to be compensated for their suffering and enjoy the fruits of cherished peace.

Second, with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli track, Jordan continues to adhere to its firm and declared position in support of the self-rule authority and its president, Yasir 'Arafat. This has been Jordan's position since the Madrid conference, when it provided an umbrella for the Palestinian negotiating delegation all the way to the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital. It has also supported the Palestinian negotiators in presenting their cause on their own at all levels of the negotiations.

Why, then, does the Israeli press drive a wedge between the Jordanians and the Palestinians through falsification, incitement, arousal of fears, and marginalization of roles?

Why does the Israeli press push Jordan into the negotiations currently under way between Syria and Israel, particularly since the prevalent atmosphere in Jordan is one of optimism regarding these negotiations in light of their positive initial results?

In brief, Jordan was and still is a proponent of the legitimate Palestinian leadership and its efforts to secure the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Similarly, Jordan supports Syria and Lebanon in their quest for a just, comprehensive peace that restores their full rights to land, security, and prosperity.

In any case, Jordan would never stoop to the level where it would deny the other parties, or any party in particular, their rights in reaping the fruits of peace.

**Al-Kabariti Interviewed on Israel, Syria, Iraq**

*JN0401123496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jan 96 p 17*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Shakir al-Jawhari; place and date not given — published "in coordination with the Emirian AL-KHALIJ newspaper"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jawhari] The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty stipulates that the agreements provided for in the treaty should be signed within a period

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not exceeding nine months after the ratification of the treaty, which took place in November 1994. Why have four treaties not been signed yet?

[Al-Kabariti] We have exceeded the deadline by only a few months. However, there is no problem. There were only some technical and wording-related differences. I believe that the two parties worked with good intention to draw up the formulas that actually realize equitability, balance, and mutual interests.

[Al-Jawhari] It seems the Israelis were scrutinizing the transportation agreement in particular to ward off any security problems?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe we caused the delay in signing the transportation agreement. We were very careful that the agreement should be balanced, realize the interests of the two sides, and take into consideration the interests and sovereignty of the Palestinian people. Hence the delay. I believe that through close and fraternal coordination with the Palestinian side, we managed to work out an agreement that achieves the projected goals and takes into consideration the interests of the Israelis, the Palestinians, and Jordan.

[Al-Jawhari] What is meant by balance, is it related to the crossings?

[Al-Kabariti] It is related to the crossings, transportation, and the nature of procedures on the borders and crossings, whether the Jordanian-Israeli or the Jordanian-Palestinian crossings.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the crossings that were agreed upon between Jordan and Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] The crossings that were agreed upon between Jordan and Israel are the southern crossing (Wadi al-'Arabah) and the northern crossing (al-Shaykh Husayn). The other border crossings are Jordanian-Palestinian where work is carried out according to the agreements signed between us and the Palestinian side.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the limits of consultation with the Palestinian side regarding the Jordanian-Israeli transportation agreement?

[Al-Kabariti] They are the same as those in our discussions of all issues. Our consultations are marked with the maximum degree of cooperation, coordination, and frankness. I believe the Palestinian side was very satisfied with the way the Jordanian negotiator defended the rights of the Palestinians and with our concern that these rights should be an integral part of the protocols and agreements signed between Jordan and Israel.

[Al-Jawhari] Your visit to Gaza was postponed more than once. When will this visit take place?

[Al-Kabariti] We left the date of this visit to be determined when the premises of the Jordanian representation office in Gaza are ready. I believe that the building was not yet completed by the contractor. Once the premises are ready, I will take part in the inauguration, God willing.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you expect the Jordanian representation office will be ready after the Palestinian elections so that your visit will be an opportunity to extend congratulations to President 'Arafat, who is expected to win the elections?

[Al-Kabariti] Senator Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation that will take part in monitoring the elections and a prominent political figure, will hold talks with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat once he arrives in Palestine to take part on overseeing the elections.

[Al-Jawhari] We learned that Jordanian delegations will be formed to congratulate 'Arafat after his win of the presidency is announced.

[Al-Kabariti] The question was put in an affirmative way as if the elections are settled in advance and as if there is no way the elections are going to be impartial and fair. We believe the elections that will be conducted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be free and fair. There will be an extensive international supervision. There were consultations with the European countries in this regard. The latest Palestinian opinion polls showed that the pro-peace process elements, whether party-affiliated or independents, have a high popularity. Certainly, we hope to take part in the celebrations of the victory of the peace camp in Palestine.

[Al-Jawhari] An Israeli newspaper reported that His Majesty King Husayn will visit Tel Aviv shortly. Is this true?

[Al-Kabariti] I have no knowledge of any program. However, I can confirm that his majesty will take part in a celebration at Bet Gavri'el on 10 January to honor the heads of the Jordanian and Israeli delegations.

[Al-Jawhari] There were earlier reports that his highness the crown prince would pay an official visit to Israel.

[Al-Kabariti] I do not think that there is anything that prevents us from visiting Israel. I think such visits will take place in the future when there is a reason or objective for them. There is no problem regarding visiting Tel Aviv and holding talks with the Israelis in Israel.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the visit of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal? Why has it been delayed?

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[Al-Kabariti] Everyone knows the reasons for this delay. First, you have the preoccupations, meetings, and conferences of the two sides. Then you have the recovery of the custodian of the two holy mosques. We believe that meetings will not stop. I met with Prince Sa'ud and his majesty met with Prince Sultan. These meetings started with my visit to Riyadh. Our contacts have never stopped. However, the visit of Prince Sa'ud to Jordan has political and symbolic significance. There is no problem if the visit did not take place earlier. Prince Sa'ud and I continue to coordinate and consult each other by phone and at the meetings we hold on the sidelines of conferences abroad.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you discussed the possibility of Jordan getting Saudi oil?

[Al-Kabariti] The truth is that we discussed all bilateral issues with the Saudi side. These include previous agreements between the two sides. It was agreed in principle to reactivate these agreements after my recent visit to Saudi Arabia. We also discuss the recent developments in the region. Jordan's search for sources of energy is a strategic issue for us. We think that Jordan should have several resources for all its strategic needs.

[Al-Jawhari] Will the positive development in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations herald an improvement in ties between Syria and Jordan? Or is it that Syrian reservations are only linked to the outcome of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Kabariti] We are only interested in the Jordanian position, which understands and supports the Syrian stand. We think that there are good signs. We think that primary issues, rather than secondary issues, dominated the meetings that were held last week. Practical issues were discussed instead of insisting on some differences on procedural matters. We will never hesitate to make efforts to allow the peace process to reach its logical results by opening the door to a just and comprehensive peace.

If the Syrian stand is marked by some reservations toward Jordan, then I think this stand has now lost its justifications. The Syrian side has reached some convictions that prompted it to resume the talks in a serious atmosphere, which resulted in the nine-point agreement. Perhaps the declared Syrian reservations have lost their justifications, but the undeclared reservations remain. According to information from Damascus, the Syrians concentrated mainly on Syria's regional role in the previous Washington negotiations before the Syrian track came to a halt. The Syrians were negotiating about their regional role more than about the Golan.

[Al-Jawhari] To what extent can the Syrian regional role conflict with that of Jordan?

[Al-Kabariti] I do honestly believe that the Syrian regional role is basic and important. I believe that there will be a conflict between the Syrian and Jordanian roles only to the extent Syria wants this to be the case.

We believe that the Jordanian role is complementary to every serious, purposeful, and constructive role that seeks to serve the Arab interests and Arab security in the wider sense, and achieve security and stability in the region. On more than one occasion, I said that we do not fight anybody and we do not fight through anybody. We struggle to win the confidence of others. Definitely, any action we take or any policy we adopt embodies our interests, but without having any regional ambitions. We stand against any regional ambitions of any party. We insist that interaction among the Arab states should be based on respect for the sovereignty of the Arab states and the need for cooperation among them on the basis of mutual interests, equitability, and equality. Relations should be equitable and no party should dictate its will on the other party which is supposed to show submissiveness.

[Al-Jawhari] It seems that deciding the shape of the political future of Iraq is a factor of disagreement and discord between Syria and Jordan. Syria apparently seeks to unite the two countries (Syria and Iraq) under the leadership of the Syrian [Arab Socialist] Ba'th Party. As you may recall, during the Iraqi-Iranian war, foremost of the Syrian conditions to mediate to end the war was Iraq's re-joining of the 1979 pan-Arab action charter. It seems this Syrian position is still effective. Jordan has ostensibly entered on this line and caused a clash in interests.

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that the constitutional form of government in Iraq should be one that takes into account safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and unity of its people. It should ensure that Iraq with all its capabilities and people will have a basic role on the Arab and international scenes. This can be accomplished only through arriving at a constitutional and democratic form that takes into consideration and observes the pluralism that exists in Iraq. If these points are the basis on which all Arab countries, particularly those directly concerned with the situation in Iraq, can meet, then there is no justification for differences, unless there are regional ambitions on the part of some given the tragic situation in Iraq. This, definitely, does not concern us. What really concerns us is the interests of the Iraqi people and having them united. We seek to prevent Iraq's disintegration and stand against any foreign intervention seeking to capitalize from the tragic situation in Iraq.

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[Al-Jawhari] Concerning Husayn Kamil's recent statements in which he threatened to leave Jordan if the latter continued speaking about federation in Iraq, do you not feel that Jordan was tricked into Husayn Kamil's affair?

[Al-Kabariti] Once again, we have made clear on many occasions our opinion about federation and confederation. We said that we do not have any ready Jordanian recipes. This issue concerns the Iraqis. The constitutional form of government in Iraq will be decided by the Iraqis themselves. What Husayn Kamil says is not binding on Jordan. It is his personal opinion. He is free to adopt any position or opinion. As we said, we did not plan his advent to Jordan and will not plan his departure from Jordan as well. He was most welcome when he came. When he wishes to leave, we will treat him the same way.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there a possibility he will leave indeed?

[Al-Kabariti] He will decide this. As he decided to come he can decide to leave.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it true, as claimed by a Jordanian newspaper, that he is living under difficult conditions in Amman?

[Al-Kabariti] If Husayn Kamil deems the Hashemite Jordanian hospitality accorded to him does cause him difficulties, then we do not know what we can provide to him so he will feel comfortable!

[Al-Jawhari] By the way, has Husayn Kamil turned into an obstacle regarding Jordanian-Saudi relations?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not think so. There is no reason or justification for this.

[Al-Jawhari] What about the Iraqi opposition conference in Jordan? Some papers say the idea has been dropped.

[Al-Kabariti] The decision of Iraqi groups to meet in Amman or anywhere else is a decision to be made by the Iraqi groups themselves, whether they function outside or inside Iraq. The objective behind the meeting is to arrive at common convictions and viewpoints through which we can end the tragic situation of the Iraqi people. The place of the meeting is not an objective in itself.

[Al-Jawhari] Agreement among the Iraqi factions seems impossible due to the satellite relations binding these factions to a number of quarreling states in the region. If the Iraqi opposition is to meet, the regional states whose positions will impact on the future of Iraq must first unify their stands.

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, I wish you would avoid using the word opposition and factions. We are talking about the Iraqi people as a whole with all their various currents and origins.

Second, I agree with you that there should be an understanding among the states concerned with Iraq and those that are affected by what is going on in Iraq, this is natural. I believe that there are basic points on which everybody agrees; namely, the need to prevent the entrenchment of the division which has actually taken place, work to confront any foreign attempts to take advantage of the tragic situation in Iraq, and join the Iraqi forces together in order to arrive at a political formula.

We do not want what happened in Afghanistan to happen in Iraq. In Afghanistan all the parties conducted field work without having a common unified view binding all these parties together so that if there was any sort of change these parties would not find themselves in a situation where they will fight and quarrel with each other, thus exacerbating matters.

What we are looking for and seeking to achieve is to have all the Iraqi sides meet through their representatives so that we can arrive at a common view, a clear strategy, and reach a modicum of understanding on the future of a unified and strong Iraq that can be constitutional, democratic, and capable of safeguarding the rights that are inherent in pluralism.

Otherwise, I believe it would be really dangerous to allow all these groups to represent real interests and carry out plans that have nothing to do with the Iraqi people and their interests, but are concerned only with serving regional interests.

[Al-Jawhari] As far as you know, have the time and place for the convocation of the Iraqi opposition conference been set yet?

[Al-Kabariti] There is no specified time. Once again, neither the time nor the place are objectives in themselves. What is important is what I said about the aspired goals. When there is agreement on the need to hold this meeting to achieve these goals, matters like time and place become marginal, a technicality.

[Al-Jawhari] To what extent do you recognize Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi as an Iraqi opposition faction, and where does stand in the eyes of the Jordanian judiciary?

[Al-Kabariti] Ahmad al-Jalabi is wanted by the Jordanian courts and he has a role to play in the Iraqi movements. This matter concerns the Iraqi movements as well as the bodies he represents.

[Al-Jawhari] Some papers said that he asked Jordan to grant him a special amnesty so that he could attend the opposition conference if it was held in Amman.

[Al-Kabariti] His release depends on an order by the Jordanian courts and judicial system.

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[Al-Jawhari] What about Sa'd Salih Jabr? How can he be dealt with as a representative of an Iraqi opposition faction, especially since all Iraqis take issue with his father, who is said to have asked his wife to place concrete over his tomb to prevent desecratation of his corpse because of the Iraqi people's conviction about his dubious relations with the British?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not wish to pass judgment on Iraqi figures and the representatives of the Iraqi people. Once again we do not want people to interpret the Jordanian move as interference in Iraqi affairs. This move was a pan-Arab contribution aimed at helping the Iraqis and their representatives to arrive at a national stand that would save their country and people from disaster.

[Al-Jawhari] Al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali, who we heard is not from the Hashemite family but calls himself al-Sharif, has made several unfriendly statements against Jordan and its leadership. However, we have not yet heard any reaction from Amman.

[Al-Kabariti] We do not wish to react to or comment on any position that is based on bitter feelings, illusions, or obsessions. We want our position to be very clear and it is in the interest of the objectives I mentioned earlier and repeated in more than one answer.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it true that His Highness Prince Ra'd demanded the money deposited in British banks of the former ruling family in Iraq? Is it also true that he is thinking of demanding Iraq's throne as recently reported by a Jordanian weekly newspaper and by other newspapers outside Jordan?

[Al-Kabariti] I really know nothing about this. His Highness Prince Ra'd is an adviser. He is his majesty the king's chief chamberlain and a member of the Jordanian royal family. There have been many stories. The real aim of these stories is to undermine the Jordanian position toward Iraq. I believe that my previous answers clearly explain our position, our good intentions, and our sound course. My answers also show how concerned we are about the situation of the Iraqi people and Iraqi unity. All we are hoping for is that Iraq and its people live within and utilize the potentials of the land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. We are also hoping that the reality of the two lines will not be consecrated so that Iraq would not become the land between lines latitude 36 degrees north and latitude 32 degrees south.

The fact is that Iraq competed with other countries in the 1940's and 50's for influence in Syria. Now, Syria competes with other countries for influence in Iraq.

We hope that there are no regional ambitions. For sure, there are regional interests and this is legitimate. However, as far as ambitions, we must stand against any party that wants to achieve its ambitions at the expense of another.

[Al-Jawhari] Many contacts were held with Kuwait. These contacts were positive in terms of relations with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. However, the decisionmaking mechanism in Kuwait prevented the restoration of relations with Jordan. Has there been any recent positive development in the decisionmaking mechanism in Kuwait?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe there are positive developments. We do not want to rush things. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not a simple matter and its repercussions are deep. We understand these repercussions and we appreciate the feelings of the Kuwaiti people. We are giving their institutions — the elected representative and official institutions — enough time to make a decision that is in line with Kuwait's interest. We believe that in the end, Jordanian- Kuwaiti relations will be useful to the two countries and peoples. Moreover, we are fully aware that the more we learn from and assess experiences, the better will be the ability to confront the burdens of the present and the future.

I also believe that a normal Jordanian-Kuwaiti relationship will really be an addition that would help in confronting the burdens of the present and the future. We hope that the Kuwaitis will reach such a conviction.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there an upcoming cabinet change or reshuffle? And, has your name been proposed to form the new government?

[Al-Kabariti] These are his majesty the king's most private prerogatives by virtue of his constitutional authorities. His majesty the king will decide if there is need for such a change. We will wait and see what the next days will bring?

[Al-Jawhari] Can we say that this will apply should there be a change of government, but in case of a cabinet reshuffle, it will be carried out by the current prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that these issues depend on developments and facts and on conditions defined by the prime minister after he seeks the opinion of his majesty the king. No decision has yet been made in this regard.

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**Al-Kabariti on Syria, Iraq, Abu-Marzuq**

*JN0501115696 Amman AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI in Arabic Jan 96 pp 18-22*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by editor in chief Bassam al-'Umush, in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-'Umush] Islamists and other Arab nationalists believe Jordan abandoned its nation when it mourned Rabin and ignored Fathi al-Shaqaqi. What was your position on Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination?

[Al-Kabariti] We all belong to Islam, and are concerned about pan-Arab problems. We believe that the resistance movement that was launched to liberate the occupied Arab territories passed up the opportunity that was available to it. It was demonstrated that it is possible to achieve the objectives which some people sought to attain with armed violence through peaceful negotiations, political dialogue, and international mediation. We hope that Arab negotiators will receive support to achieve the same objectives sought by the resistance. We hope that regional and international developments can be exploited to achieve these objectives. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umush] What about Jordan's relations with Syria?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan cares about Syria, and wants it to regain its rights in full, especially its occupied territory to the 4 June border. We have never failed to support this Syrian stance at international forums and in dialogue with the Israeli side. We hope that Syria will reciprocate this Jordanian attitude by showing concern about Jordan and its interests. We also hope that Jordanian-Syrian relations will be marked by mutual respect without any one side imposing itself or trying to dictate to the other side.

Differences in views is natural between brothers and allies. The important thing is that relations be governed by a strategic view and interest. This is what governs the Jordanian attitude toward Syria. As for how Syria feels about this, you can find the answer in Syrian statements and media. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umush] What about Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] If you see your neighbor's house on fire, then you must do something before the fire spreads to your home. From a humanitarian angle and in terms of geographical and population divisions, no one can remain silent about what is taking place in Iraq. Jordan believes it is required to act to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and to defend their rights and dignity. Jordan is also required to oppose the prospect of consolidating divisions in Iraq. This requires us to address all sectors of the Iraqi population, including the Iraqi authority, to achieve the above objectives. We have made several attempts in this regard, and there was an exchange of letters in which Jordan explained its position clearly and frankly to the Iraqi leadership on how Jordan thinks the tragic situation could be handled. The official Iraqi response, however, was negative, lacked logic, and ignored Arab and international developments. Therefore, our efforts had to extend beyond dialogue with the authority to include all other Iraqi parties which are required to participate to achieve the above goals. There is no ready Jordanian recipe. There is also no Jordanian scheme to prejudice Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the Iraqi people's sacred right to choose a constitutional form of government.

[Al-'Umush] What about Jordan's support for the Iraqi opposition?

[Al-Kabariti] It is not a question of support for the Iraqi opposition. It is more an appeal for an Iraqi understanding and a meeting among all active political forces inside and outside Iraq to reach common ground on Iraq's future. The purpose of this is to enable Iraq to play its natural role in the Arab and international arenas through its compliance with the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy. This dialogue is not only required among the opposition figures abroad, and does not necessarily mean that the Iraqi authority should be excluded; it is a dialogue that can be developed to include all Iraqi sides to end the embargo and prevent the consolidation of Iraq's de facto divisions. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umush] What is the role of Jordanian diplomacy in Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq's case, especially since Jordan was the country that deported Abu-Marzuq?

[Al-Kabariti] Abu-Marzuq's case is now being handled by the U.S. courts. We hope that it will be settled, and that Abu-Marzuq will be able to return to his family and children and to exercise his political activities in a manner acceptable to international laws and norms. [passage omitted]

**Husayn Kamil Role in Conference Not Demanded**

*MM0401165296 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by Bassam Badarin: "Jordan Not Insisting on Husayn Kamil's Participation in Opposition Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A high-ranking Jordanian official has said

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that Jordan has not backtracked, nor will it backtrack, on its moves on the Iraqi question. However, it will not try, nor is it seeking, to impose on the Iraqi people any of the proposed options.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: Jordan's interest in the Iraqi file stems from Jordan's higher interests and Jordan's views on its national security. The official said: What is happening in Iraq now and what is going to happen there in the future will necessarily affect the Jordanian state. Our interest in Iraq does not stem from a desire on our part to "contain" Iraq. It is to do with Jordan's national interests.

The official stressed that his government has made nonfundamental [ghayr jawhariyah] changes to Jordan's contacts with Iraqi opposition leaders. However, the Jordanian initiative — which is based on preventing others from determining Iraq's future, enabling the Iraqis to discuss their future on Arab territory, and preventing the partition of Iraq — still stands.

In a reference to Turkish, Iranian, and Syrian concerns over the Jordanian initiative, the Jordanian official said: We respect and understand others' concerns. But, in return, they should not think that Jordan is going to ignore its own concerns and national interests. He said: Actually we do not know the direct reasons for the campaign against Jordan and the attempts to cast doubt on its stands. The Jordanians are the ones affected most by what is happening and what is going to happen in Iraq. Besides, our initiative and proposal concerning Iraq is clear, declared, and direct.

The official denied that Jordan is insisting on General Husayn Kamil's participation in the talks at the proposed Iraqi opposition conference. He said: That is untrue. We have not not insisted that Kamil or others participate in these talks. Our aim is to gather the influential Iraqi forces so that "the change" in Iraq can be successful and positive so as to serve the Iraqi people's interests. [passage omitted]

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**Fadlallah Rejects Claims of Iran-Syria 'Estrangement'**

*MM0401145396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 96 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: Iran Knows Syria Has Special Arab Role"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who has close links with the leadership of Lebanese Hizballah, has stressed that "Iranian-Syrian relations are so strong that they cannot allow any transient situation or disagreement between the two countries to shake the strategic foundation between them [Iran and Syria]." He added that Iran knows that Syria has a "special" Arab role.

Fadlallah pointed out that "the U.S. and Israeli media, and some media services, tried to exaggerate the outcome of the negotiations and to speak of magic solutions." He said that "there are fundamental complications at the negotiations with regard to some vital questions."

Fadlallah said that the clamor stirred up by the media, which resembles great rejoicing, proceeded from talk which all the enemies of Iran and Syria had been waiting for, namely that there is a problem in relations between Syria and Iran as a result of transient complications represented in some Iranian press commentaries and statements by some Iranian officials. As a result, political analysts have concluded that estrangement has begun and that this is "the first fruit of the new course taken by the [peace] process to force Syria to move away from Iran. Maybe this is one of the conditions set by Israel with backing from the United States, it is being said."

Fadlallah said that there is "a strategic alliance" between Iran and Syria with regard to numerous political issues relating to the Arab and Islamic reality. "They believe — and we have heard this from officials in both countries — that they have common and strategic interests." He added: "Iran knows that Syria has a special Arab role in its Arab relations, and Syria knows that Iran has its own role in Islamic relations and its relations with its geographical environment. And that there are points of agreement and points of disagreement that are subject to the nature of the political interests in both countries."

He pointed out that Iran is aware of the scale of the pressure being exerted on Syria to force it to accept a settlement, and it understands the question and the resolute position taken by Syria in the face of the Israeli and U.S. pressure regarding details of the negotiations. Syria also understands Iran's special stand on the three islands [disputed with the United Arab Emirates], which Iran considers Iranian territory. Matters proceeded normally without any problems until the Damascus Declaration states convened a meeting, after which the Americans, the Israelis, and some Arabs began to exert pressure on the Gulf states to compel them to recognize Israel diplomatically and to speed up normalization without waiting for a settlement between Syria and Lebanon on the one hand and Israel on the other. If such normalization takes place, Syria would be isolated on the Arab level and its position in the negotiations would weaken. Fadlallah believes that "a new atmosphere can be brought about through some of the concessions at which Israel hinted but did not announce, but we do not believe that there is anything new on the ground."

Concluding, Fadlallah said: "The resistance in Lebanon cannot reveal its cards, and it knows how to make moves when Islamic and public interests prompt it to make a move. It stops when its religious duties prompt it to stop, because it is not proceeding from transient political slogans, but, rather, from a strategy governing its moves."

**Fadlallah Views Christopher's Mideast Trip**

*NC0401200596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Telephone interview with Shiite leader Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in Beirut, by Jihad al-'Idan, in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Your eminence Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, what in your opinion are the objectives of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region?

[Fadlallah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is known that the United States, driven by the election interests of its president and by its plan to rearrange the region in a way that helps Washington and its Zionist ally to control it, is working to accelerate the [Arab-Israeli] negotiations with a view to reaching a settlement that primarily serves its interests and those of Israel. The United States sought to keep the Arab situation in a state of political, economic, and security imbalance under the new political order.

I, therefore, think that the United States is going all out to find some gaps that could help break the ice that has dominated the negotiations between the Zionist enemy and Syria. It is the United States' policy to pressure the Arabs and not to apply any kind of pressure on Israel.

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This is especially true now because the upcoming U.S. elections need the Jewish vote, for which the Democrats and the Republicans are competing.

I, therefore, view the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state as a move within the margin Israel gave to the United States concerning the negotiations. The United States is implementing the Israeli plan without being able to add any new external element. It is working with all its energy to deflect the Syrian position, hoping to find gaps that would meet the price Israel is asking for withdrawal from the Golan. Some enemy officials said: We may pull out of the Golan, but we wonder what is the price. Naturally, the United States will try to get a high price from Syria to please Israel. And Israel is pressuring the United States itself into paying about $12 billion as the cost of this withdrawal. The United States is also now trying to secure a kind of a financial basket from Japan and Europe to help the negotiations economically.

We, therefore, believe that the secretary will encounter difficulties because the Syrian position is apparently still firm and cannot offer concessions.

**Minister al-Murr on Entering Palestinian Camp**

*NC0401152296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before leaving for Tunis to attend meetings of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, Minister al-Murr affirmed in a radio interview that there are no areas considered out of bounds for the Lebanese security forces. He added that the Council of Ministers' decision to deploy security forces in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah [Palestinian] Camp will have no repercussions because such a measure is determined by the security agencies alone.

He noted that what applies to the Lebanese citizen must be applied to the Palestinian citizen. He clarified that the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp has become a shelter for criminals, smugglers, and violators of the law. He was referring to a man named Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'di, alias Abu-Mihjan, the main suspect in the assassination of Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi. The suspect has been served with a summons by the appropriate judicial authorities. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Murr denied that any attempt was made to negotiate the arrest of suspect Abu-Mihjan in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp. He noted that the decision was a local measure and proof of the established security in Lebanon discounting considerations regarding any foreign country. This, he added, is because it is impermissible to allow enclaves in Lebanon where wanted people can hide and no once can reach them. Meanwhile, REUTER today cites Lebanese judicial sources as saying that officials who have been investigating the assassination of Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi in Beirut since August discovered a network plotting acts of violence in Lebanon. Citing the same sources, the agency adds that more than 200 people suspected of belonging to the network have been arrested since Shaykh al-Halabi's murder. The sources clarified that the network had its headquarters in Tripoli and that smaller cells having links with extremist movements in some Arab countries existed in other Lebanese cities.

Minister al-Murr answered a question on whether Lebanon would accept or reject a proposal put forth to the Arab interior ministers' conference in Tunis to set up a regional training center to combat crime with Israel's participation. He said the issue will not be decided before it is brought up at the conference. Discussing it is premature for us and others, he added.

**Two Groups Charged With Killing, Sedition**

*NC0501072396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lebanese Army is tightening its security measures against the [Palestinian] 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp to arrest a man who is hiding there. He is charged with murdering Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi. The Army erected earthen ramparts, and 150 soldiers are checking people entering or leaving the camp.

AFP cites a Lebanese military source saying that the Lebanese authorities want the accused, Abu-Mihjan, to give himself up or the residents of the camp to turn him in. If not, the Army is determined to enter the camp by force. [passage omitted]

Judge 'Adnan 'Addum, public prosecutor at the court of cassation, filed lawsuits against two groups of armed men for participating in the assassination of Shaykh al-Halabi, attempting to assassinate Shaykh Taha al-Sabunji and Shaykh Naji Taha, and possessing explosive material and firearms without a license. The defendants are: Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Adli, nicknamed Abu-Mihjan, a Palestinian residing in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp; Sa'id al-Shahhal; Fu'ad Bin-Samir al-Zayni; recruit Wasim Bin-Muhammad al-'Abdallah; gendarme Tariq Bin-Muhammad al-'Abdallah; 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Fathi; Ra'id Bin-Ahmad Athum; 'Imad Bin-'Abd-al-Hamid al-'Ali; Ibrahim Bin-Zakariya Shatila; Ibrahim Bin-Khalid Mihyu; 'Ali Bin-Hasan al-'Arab; Khalid Bin-Muhammad Sa'b; 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhyi-al-Din Tabbarah; and Jamal Bin-Khalid Mihyu.

Judge Fawzi Abu-Murad, the appeals public prosecutor in Beirut, filed lawsuits against Radi-al-Islam al-

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Shahhal, Ra'if Kabbarah, Isma'il Isma'il, Bilal Duqmaq, Hasan Hutayt, Ra'id Hurayhil, Bashshar Darwish, and Basim Haris, all from the Wahabi movement, for distributing in Tripoli leaflets, publications, and books inciting sectarian sedition.

**Deployment Seen Unrelated to Hizballah View of Talks**

*MM0501120096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 96 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Tha'ir 'Abbas: "Hizballah Not Opposed to Lebanese Government Measures; al-Hirawi Says: We Will Extend Our Authority Over All Our Territory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, Tunis — In his first reaction following the Council of Ministers decision the day before yesterday to task the defense and interior ministers with drawing up a plan to deploy military forces throughout Lebanese territory, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that the state is serious in arresting the Palestinian Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'di, alias Abu- Mihjan, who is accused by the Lebanese judiciary of leading an armed ring that has carried out bombing, subversion, and assassination operations, the most recent of which is the assassination of Shaykh Nizar al-Halabi, head of the Islamic charity projects society (al- Ahbash). [passage omitted]

People who visited al-Hirawi quote him as saying that "there are tasks ahead of Lebanon for which we should prepare ourselves, and the state will extend its authority over all Lebanese territory. It is just a matter of time." He stressed that "as far as the state is concerned, the issue of imposing sovereignty and security over all its territory is not negotiable."

In this context a source close to Hizballah has told AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT that the operation announced by the Council of Ministers, namely to enter Palestinian camps, is not linked to what is happening in the negotiations concerning a settlement [in the Middle East], but it could be a future topic.

The source pointed out that "the Lebanese Army is already deployed in the areas in which Hizballah is present, and the deployment cannot be associated with tightening the siege on it [Hizballah] in preparation for checking it in accordance with the rhythm of the those negotiations." The source said that Hizballah deals positively with the government's moves and decisions, and it is not going to clash with it. And the resistance issue is not the object of discussion at the moment, because no one is likely to show his hand early. [passage omitted]

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**Press Urges U.S. To Maintain Strong Role in Talks**

*JN0501075296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the Maryland talks, AL-THAWRAH says: The second round of these talks began its third day amid a cautious atmosphere. There are, however, some optimistic expectations of positive results that would revitalize the political process on the Syrian track and enable it to achieve its objectives. This is especially true in light of the recent developments and the steps taken by the U.S. State Department through the participation of the chief of U.S. diplomacy, Warren Christopher, in these talks. This lends the talks special significance and makes them more serious, given the nature and weight of the U.S. role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace, based on the land-for-peace principle and relevant Security Council resolutions.

The newspaper says bridging the wide gaps between the two sides in their stands toward peace and its essential components needs the offices and intervention of the U.S. sponsor. These U.S. efforts should be geared toward the implementation of international resolutions and the Madrid frame of reference.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria does not accept compromises with regard to its territorial rights, the conditions of peace, and security arrangements. Syria insists that these arrangements must be balanced [mutawazinah], equal [mutasawiyah], and based on the principle of equitability [al-takafu'] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines. Syria would never accept extending privileges or offering rewards or compensation to the occupation or maintaining any form or symbol of it on a grain of the Golan soil.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has fulfilled its obligations toward peace. It does not want anything more than the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. land-for-peace initiative. Syria wants to see the Golan free of any symbol of the occupation. It wants a peace that ensures Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and establishment of equitable and balanced security arrangements on both sides of these lines which all parties must honor, provided the security of one side is not achieved at the expense of another.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria's stance toward peace is clear and specific. It is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. Syria wants an honorable peace under which there will be no relinquishment of a grain of the homeland's soil or any national or pan-Arab right. This peace must also preserve the nation's dignity and end all forms of oppression and occupation.

Concluding, the paper says: We hope that the weight which the United States is lending to the current talks ahead of Christopher's upcoming tour of the region will usher in a new phase of an active U.S. role that puts pressure on Israel to make it respond to the requirements for peace. We will wait to see what Christopher's next visit will yield.

AL-BA'TH speaks about the role of the U.S. sponsor in the peace process, noting that the participation of the U.S. secretary of state in the second round of talks is an expression of a role which the Clinton administration has repeatedly emphasized. The Clinton administration has said more than once that it is committed to continuing efforts until a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH says the U.S. participation, through a large delegation, is a clear signal that the U.S. Administration is planning to make more active efforts that could reach their peak during Christopher's tour of the region, which will begin on 10 January. U.S. officials know that achieving a just and comprehensive peace can be done through commitment to their initiative and implementing its clauses, which are based on international legitimacy.

The newspaper adds: The Maryland talks resumed after a six-month break in the peace process and after more than four years since the Madrid conference was convened. The Maryland talks amount to a return to the essence of the peace process, as stipulated by the U.S. initiative. This is what prompted Syria to take part in these talks, after it discerned a new Israeli position. This position is still clashing with other Israeli statements that do not inspire optimism.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The U.S. role remain will important and active if it maintains the momentum it generated at the Maryland talks.

**Radio: Reasons for Caution in Talks Still Exist**

*JN0401144596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second round of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations began near the U.S. capital yesterday, nine days after the resumption of the negotiations on this track. This round is surrounded by positive expectations by whoever is interested in the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace in this extremely vital

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region for world interests. Undoubtedly, there are reasons for these expectations, led by the conviction of the world states and the world public opinion that Syria, for which just peace is a strategic option, will offer all that is necessary to make the peace process a success. This is exactly what Syria has been doing for four years; that is, since the beginning of the peace process. The second reason that justifies the positive expectations is the strong U.S. participation in it. The third reason for these positive expectations is the new Israeli tone, which is characterized by flexibility, although this flexibility has so far not gone beyond political statements to affect the Israeli stand on the peace process.

Although these reasons justify the positive expectations accompanying the current round of negotiations, the justifications for caution which accompanied this round since its beginning nine days ago are still there. Some Israeli officials are still reiterating the statements which confused and obstructed the peace process during the reign of the former Israeli Government, such as the statements about the need to change the level of negotiations or about what they call the nature of peace. We of course understand that it is reasonable to ask about the formula of the negotiations. In response, we say that it is the Madrid formula. Concerning the terms of reference of the peace process, it is known that they are the UN Security Council resolutions providing for Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. To answer the question about the elements of peace, we say that they are full withdrawal in return for full peace, with the possibility of reinforcing these two elements with equal [mutasawiayh], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and parallel [mutawaziyah] security arrangements on the two sides. Yet, it should be noted that peace per se is the guarantee of security. Peace, not expansion or geographical advantages, gives everybody a true feeling of security about their lives and rights.

Peace is possible and attainable if all the parties believe that just peace is better than usurping rights and that peace is necessary for all parties and not for a single party. Peace is feasible if there is an overall commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions, which constitute the basis and terms of reference of peace.

**Dispute With Iran, Possible Iran-Iraq Alliance Seen**

*MM0301170296 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jan 96 p 11*

[Editorial: "Iraqi-Iranian Alliance Against Syria?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to understand the roots of the recent Syrian-Iranian dispute, represented in the cancellation of a visit Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi was supposed to make to Damascus. This is in addition to the sharp criticisms of Syria by the Iranian media. Is this dispute attributable to the fact that Syria has vigorously joined the peace process and is about to sign a full peace agreement with the Hebrew state? Or is it attributable to the Syrian Government's abandonment of its "neutral" position on the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three islands (Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra) and its full bias toward the UAE, expressed in its endorsement of the final statement of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers' meetings?!

The Iranian anger is most likely attributable primarily to the recent Syrian position on the islands question and its movement closer and closer toward the position of the Gulf, which is scared of the growing Iranian military arsenal and the nuclear ambitions of the Tehran government.

While the Syrian position supporting the UAE in its demand for sovereignty over the islands can be described as traditional and courteous, since the meetings were held in Damascus and because Syria is seeking to rally Gulf support for its negotiation position, what is new is the Syrian Government's agreement to a paragraph in the Damascus Declaration group's final statement criticizing the Iranian nuclear program — a position close to the U.S. position and which confirms the Iranian saying: "The closer Syria moves toward Israel, the further it moves away from Iran."

Iran had paid no attention to the Syrian position on the peace process with Israel, whether this position was rigid or flexible. When the Syrian Government agreed to negotiate directly with an Israeli delegation on the basis of the Madrid formula, Tehran did not object, nor were its relations with Damascus affected, while it continued to consider others' negotiations, especially those of the Palestinians and the Jordanians, as a kind of treason, capitulation, and abandonment of Arab rights.

It seems that Iran wanted two basic things from Syria: for it to support its seizure of the three islands in the Gulf and maintain the enmity toward Iraq during the first and second Gulf war. And it is prepared to forgive [Syria] for anything else, including the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel under a peace agreement, as long as these two things have been achieved.

The picture is now changing rapidly in the region, and the map of alliances has begun to change. The Syrian-Israeli negotiations in Maryland differ from previous talks, and the reports of rapid progress in these negotiations confirm that Syria is serious in reaching an agreement, now that it has obtained all that it wants — albeit verbally — from Israel, namely dropping the

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condition of setting up ground early-warning stations on the Golan after its withdrawal from it, and a recognition of Syria's regional role and influence in Lebanon.

Syria's movement toward a settlement with the Hebrew state means its movement away from Iran and entry into a new alliance with Washington and its Gulf allies in particular. It seems that the Iranian leadership now understands these new changes, which is why it has canceled Habibi's visit to Damascus and incited its press to open fire — in an unprecedented manner — on the Syrian Government.

It is likely that Iran's next step will be to try to look for a new regional alliance to compensate for the strategic Syrian ally, and it is not ruled out that Iraq could become a principal member of that alliance.

Iran had closed all the doors to all Iraqi flirtation attempts and refused to respond to any of Baghdad's appeals to ally with it tactically, if it was difficult to ally strategically because of the bitterness resulting from the eight-year war. The reason was its satisfaction with the strength of relations with Syria and its belief that they would remain the same. But now that there have been signs of some progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks and Washington is playing a direct role in these talks, nothing is left for Iran to ally with except its traditional enemy, namely Iraq, in order to try to create a front parallel with the Gulf-Syrian-Egyptian front.

Iraq, which is already besieged, starved, and drowned, will not fear a little "wetness" from Iran, especially these days, at a time when its relations with Jordan, its only gate to the outside world, are worsening. As for Iran — now that the United States has allocated $20 million to undermine its stability — it has nothing to lose. The rockets fired by Hizballah on Galilee last Friday and Saturday are the first warning of the political disruptions that could occur on the region's map in the future.

### Muslim Brotherhood in Syria Rejects 'Underground Action'

*MM0201140696 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Dec 95 p 1*

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "'Muslim Brothers' in Syria Will Not Go Back to 'Underground Action'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The general supervisor of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria has stressed that his movement prefers not to go back to "underground action" following the relaxation in its relations with the Syrian Government, after two decades of clashes.

Dr. Hasan al-Huwaydi, general supervisor of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria, told AL-HAYAH: "We aspire to arrive at a mature formula for political pluralism in our beloved homeland — a formula based on fixed foundations derived from the nation's religion and cultural heritage. Then national unity would become the first fruit of such a formula."

He expressed his hope that "a political pluralism formula whose doors are open to all would crystallize. Then there would be no need for any underground action or any other similar action. At any rate, we do not approve of underground action as long as the public action doors are open. There is nothing in the Islamic message that requires secrecy or concealment."

Al-Huwaydi, who has been living in the Jordanian capital for some years, stressed that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu-Ghuddah, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, returned to Syria at an invitation from Syrian officials. He pointed out that Abu-Ghuddah is currently on a visit to Syria, and has not returned to reside there permanently.

The general supervisor said that negotiations were held between the Brothers and the Syrian Government in 1984 and 1987.

On the release of Muslim Brotherhood prisoners in Syria, he said that the process is continuing, and so far some 4,000 prisoners from various political groups have been released. He said that the movement does not receive official lists of those being released. "Our statistics are incomplete, and we estimate the number of those released recently at about 1,500."

On conditions inside the movement, which has suffered serious setbacks in the past decade and experienced a severe split in its ranks, Huwaydi said: "The movement is performing its duties in the call, education, information, and political spheres within its resources and according to circumstances."

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## Afghanistan

### Taleban Said Backed by Pakistan Secret Service

*BR0401135696 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 4 Jan 96 p 5*

[Report on interview with Aghan 'Deputy Defense Minister' Yunes Qanuni by Ettore Mo in Kabul; date not given: "Kabul's Cripple Army"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kabul — [passage omitted] It was a calm day on the front line, behind the Darulaman presidential palace, already damaged by the first Soviet intervention. In a demolished house, behind the clay parapets, there were 50 men. Hasamoddin had placed an iron stove over the muzzle of his mortar. He said that he fired his last shot three days ago. Ainoddin, who commands 10 tanks, said that he had fired on the enemy only a few minutes earlier and that the gun was still hot. The Taleban tanks, deployed along a protected zigzag front beneath tall, dark mountains, are visible on a slope 5-6 km away. Their mortars fire at fairly regular intervals, but the whistle and explosions of the shells indicate clearly that they are targeted on the inhabited center.

"They shall not pass," Deputy Defense Minister Yunes Qanuni said, quoting Dolores Ibarruri's combative watchword from the Spanish Civil War. "In three years we have driven back all the forces hostile to us — [Hezb-e Eslami leader] Hekmatyar, General Dostum [name as published], and the Talebanis. The latter are backed by the ISI, the Pakistani military secret service, which wants to create an opening on the silk road and to administer our domestic affairs. If they wanted an opening in the countries of Central Asia, it would have been enough to reach an agreement two years ago: We were willing to grant them one even then."

At the start of their endeavor (around autumn 1984) Afghanistan's theology students and "seekers for the truth" (this is exactly what Talebani means) presented themselves in a different guise and "we supported them," the deputy minister said. "But then," he went on, "they corrupted local commanders and persuaded them to fight against us. They closed roads and isolated Kabul, which is dying of starvation." [passage omitted]

It is an alarming prospect because it would mean "a return to barbarism and the Middle Ages for Afghanistan," Yunus Qanuni said. The same conclusion was reached by Khalil Mas'ud, an old friend who was for 16 years spokesman for Jam'iyat-e-Eslami (the party of President Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud) in Pakistan: "We are real Muslims," he said, "which is why we combated the pro-Soviet regimes of Karmani and Najibollah and the Red Army. But at the same time we are proposing a moderate approach; Islam must come up to date with the times, with present conditions."

Two months ago Khalil was expelled roughly from Islamabad. He received me in the beautiful home that former King Zahir Shah (who has lived in exile in Rome since 1973) had built for his father, a noble and much loved poet: "The Pakistani police surrounded my residence at 0700 hours and imprisoned me. Less than 10 hours later I was already at the border. At that moment I realized that there was no longer any chance of dialogue with Benazir Bhutto and her government. We were prepared for a transfer of power and wanted to engage in dialogue with everyone — with Pakistan, with Dostum, with the Talebanis, even with Hekmatyar. But the opposition remained immovable Not even a mission by UN envoy Mestiri produced any result. We reply to our adversaries, who criticize Rabbani for not resigning at the end of his mandate in December 1994, that if he had done so the situation would have plunged into chaos and anarchy." [passage omitted]

### Hezb-e Eslami Wants Rabbani Resignation Before Talks

*LD0401180096 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with the SHAHADAT newspaper, Homayun Jarir, representative of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] in the High Coordination Council, said that Professor Rabbani has several times made a proposal to the Hezb leadership, saying that he is ready to come to Sarobi to meet Golboddin Hekmatyar. The Hezb did not accept the proposal and insisted that it wants a complete solution of the problem, in its entirety. For this purpose, the resignation of Professor Rabbani is an important step and, until Rabbani does resign from the presidency, no talks will be held with the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] at leadership level.

Regarding talks in Mazar-e Sharif and a possible visit of Rabbani to this city, Jarir said that there is understanding among the members of the High Coordination Council about the Mazar talks and the visit of Professor Rabbani. General Dostam, leader of the Junbish-e Meli [National Movement], has been in contact and has briefed the members of the council.

He added that the proposed visit of Rabbani to Mazar-e Sharif is an important event for the Kabul administration; it is not, however, particularly important for the High Coordination Council. In Mazar- e Sharif he would not be welcomed as a president but as an ordinary elder.

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**Dostam Representative on Talks With Government**

*LD0401183896 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] We have discussed nothing with the Kabul administration's delegation. We only held talks on the details of Rabbani's visit to Mazar-e Sharif, which has now been suspended.

This point was made in Islamabad in the course of an interview with Junbish-e Meli [National Movement] representative Mowlawi Abdol Baqi Turkistani.

Mowlawi Turkistani said that the issue of cease-fire with the Kabul administration depends on the decision of the Coordination Council. A session of the High Coordination Council will be held to consider this proposal of the Kabul administration. The decision of the council will then be announced.

**Government Forces Exchange Fire With Taleban**

*LD0401165096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The exchange of heavy weapon fire was continuing over last night in the south of Kabul.

BAKHTAR reported that the artillery forces of the Islamic Army have targeted the positions and fortifications of the Taleban group in the south of Kabul, destroying one BM-21 set of the enemy and killing two men of the Taleban group.

The artillery fire commenced after the Taleban group hit the residential areas of Kabul by rockets.

**Security Forces Seize Weapons, Ammunition in Kabul**

*LD0401175696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of a mopping up and search operation carried out around Kabul city, a quantity of various weapons and ammunition was discovered today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that as a result of this clearing up operation carried out by the Department of National Security in the fifth ward, the following weapons and ammunition were seized: 40 rocket-launcher shells; 27 shells for 82mm artillery; eight BMT shells; 15 hand grenades; 20,000 rounds of Kalashnikov ammunition; 12 boxes of PK's ammunition; 10 pressure land mines; one communication set; one flamethrower; and dozens of various weapons' magazines. These weapons and ammunition had been illegally stored in the city.

The perpetrators were arrested and the case is under investigation.

**International Food Group Stops Refugee Assistance**

*LD0401203996 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview on financial assistance to refugees, Rustam Shah Mohmand, Afghan refugee commissioner, stated this point. He said that the number of Afghan refugees [in Pakistan] had reached around one million. The figure is now much higher due to the recent fighting in Kabul. The number reaches to 1.3 million Afghans who are living in various areas of Pakistan.

Rustam Shah said that the Afghan refugees are now being given a small amount of medical, educational, and training assistance. Most of the refugees are now working and trying to stand up on their own feet economically.

## Bangladesh

**BNP Blames Opposition for Ending Negotiations**

*BK0501105496 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 3 Jan 96 p 1*

[Report by Nazmul Ashraf]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] will participate in an election under an advisory council formed by the President if only the Jamaat-e-Islami, Gano Forum [GF] and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) agree to contest the polls, said BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar last night.

Otherwise, he said the BNP would go ahead with the scheduled polls.

"Such an arrangement (advisory council) could be made even if one or two parties — Awami League or Jatiya Party (or both) refrain from contesting the polls. But the arrangements, to be made for the single purpose of overseeing a free and fair polls, must be covered by the Constitution", the BNP leader told some reporters at his Bailey Road official residence late last night.

"We're also ready to take necessary steps to legalise the arrangements under the Constitution," he said.

If these three smaller parties also boycott the elections, then there would be no need for an advisory council, he added.

He accused the major Opposition parties for ending the negotiation process by putting two pre-conditions:

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a chief advisor with executive powers and extending the 90-day constitutional time limit for holding polls. "We are not willing to sit for further talks unless they withdraw their pre-conditions. No discussion could be held with pre-conditions," he said.

However, the BNP secretary general noted that judicial reference could be sought on the Opposition's second demand for extending the time-limit if there was any agreement.

In this regard, Information and Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam, who was sitting beside Talukdar, quoted AL [Awami League] leader Amir Hossain Amu as saying that they would not sit for talks unless the two conditions were accepted. "They've cancelled today's meeting scheduled for 10 pm and thus have blocked the negotiation process and we're not going for further talks unless they withdraw their pre-conditions".

He also denied the Opposition allegation that the BNP avoided Monday's [1 January] meeting saying no such meeting was scheduled.

Asked if his party had talks with the Jamaat, GF and LDF on formation of an advisory council, Salam Talukdar said, "We have already had informal talks at different times and there might be formal meetings with them."

Both the ministers observed that all the opposition parties should contest the polls under an advisory council with the President holding all executive powers if they wanted democracy and constitutional process in the country.

"If they (the major Opposition) don't do so, we must say they are running after something else, not democracy and the Constitution," said Salam Talukdar.

**Hasina: Opposition Wants Meaningful Elections**

*BK0301162696 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the countrywide drive for the recovery of illegal arms, members of the law enforcing agencies have so far today recovered 7,864 arms and bullets. In addition, a total of 8,621 persons were arrested during this period for keeping illegal arms and for other charges. The arms and ammunition include 821 firearms, 1,956 bullets, and 5,079 explosives. A total of 37 different types of firearms, 79 rounds of bullets, and 26 explosives was recovered today from different parts of the country. During this period, 423 persons have been arrested. Our correspondent, quoting Election Commission sources, said that this large-scale drive, which was launched on 21 December, has had a positive impact on the overall law and order situation.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has said that the opposition parties want a meaningful election that has the participation of all political parties. She was addressing a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka today. Referring to the recent drive for the recovery of illegal arms, she called upon the Armed Forces and the law enforcing agencies to perform their task neutrally.

The Jamaat-e-Islami also arranged a rally at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram today. Party Secretary General Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami demanded the resignation of the government to help resolve the political crisis. He also demanded the handing over of power to the president with a view to forming a caretaker government.

**Says BNP 'Deepening' Political Crisis**

*BK0301140496 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 2 Jan 96 p 1*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the ruling party of deliberately deepening the political crisis as the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] evaded yesterday's meeting mediated by a foreign envoy, reports UNB.

She said the BNP was not sincere toward resolving the deadlock and that's why it cancelled the follow-up meeting between the government and the Opposition scheduled to be held at U.S. Ambassador David N. Merrill's residence at 3 pm yesterday.

Addressing an extended meeting of Dhaka City Unit of her party at the Awami League central office in the evening, Hasina said the Prime Minister [PM] was only sincere about "stealing" votes and insincere about giving back people's voting right.

Begum Zia, she said, is not agreeing to step down to allow a caretaker government to conduct the elections as there will be no scope for her to "steal" votes.

Hasina also accused the government of planting its own people in different tiers of the administration prior to voting for what she said ballot piracy.

Referring to a rumour that the crisis will be solved if she and Begum Zia sat for a dialogue, Hasina said: "I have agreed to that and floated the proposal for direct telecast of that talks, so that the government cannot distort it, which they are doing so often. But they are yet to give reply to my proposal."

Referring to the BNP's claim to development works, Hasina questioned where development was. "Prime Minister's family members, BNP's ministers, MPs, and party leaders were only benefited," she alleged.

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She said she visited Senakunju [Army House] at Prime Minister's invitation, "but she (PM) has insulted me." Even after that, for the interest of the people and the country, "I rang up Begum Zia and wrote letters... but when I prepared the reply of the last letter of PM, suddenly the elections schedule was announced blocking the way to reply to her letter.

"If she (PM) is sincere to solve the crisis, she should resign 90 days before the elections to allow holding a free, neutral and meaningful elections. But, now it seems that she (PM) would not resign 30 days before the election, which she publicly promised," Hasina said.

**Report Shows 'Alarming Increase' in Rights Abuses**

*BK0401103996 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 2 Jan 96 p 12*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The law and order situation and human rights conditions in the country, gravely deteriorated over the past one year, according to an annual report compiled by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB).

The report indicates an alarming increase in violent crimes and human rights abuses, particularly those commiited by law enforcement agents.

The CCHRB is an umbrella organisation of more than 76 NGOs [nongovernment organizations] involved in monitoring human rights in the country.

In the past year, 26 persons died in police and jail custody, while another 35 lost their lives in police and BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] firing, according to the report, based on newspaper reports and the CCHRB monitoring cell.

The number of arrests was 18,550, compared to 7,855 in the preceding year.

In 1995, the year when the United Nations organised the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, the nation's womenfolk were the worst victims of human right violations and other violent crimes.

The number of reported rape incidents for '95 was 216, compared to 142 for '94. The police were allegedly responsible for 16 of these incidents.

The rape and murder of the teenaged girl, Yasmin, by three policemen in Dinajpur and the subsequent killed [word as published] of 7 protesters shook the nation in '95.

The number of acid-throwing incidents also rose drastically in '95. At least 181 women fell victim to the vicious crime, compared to 68 in '94.

The past year also saw 45 women killed for dowry and another 34 murdered following rape.

More than 20 women were victims of illegal fatwas [religious decree], the report shows.

Meanwhile, the number of murder cases recorded in '95 was 2,190, a slight drop from the '94 figure of 2,220.

The past year was also the year of record hartals [strikes].

The political bickering between the ruling party and the Opposition over the caretaker government issue, resulted in a total of 74 hartals, including a record 96-hour non-stop one causing serious disruption to normal life. At least 95 persons were killed in clashes between political parties.

Incidents of violence on the country's university campuses escalated during the past year, which left 30 dead and 1166 injured, compared to 12 and 755, respectively, in '94.

Moreover, another 17 persons were killed and 804 injured at other educational institutions across the country.

A total of 1,965 cases of thefts and robberies, and 1,381 cases of muggings were recorded in '95, according to the report.

The year also saw a drastic rise in incidents of suicide, 884 compared to 332 in '94.

A few cases of detention under the Special Powers Act (SPA) [Act under which the police can detain suspects for 120 days without filing specific charges] and violation of the right to freedom of expression were recorded in '95.

The detention of journalist, Farhad Mazhar for 120 days under SPA and the banning of the book "Nari" [Woman] by Prof Humayun Azad are two of the most talked about cases of '95.

**Commentary Discusses Country's 'Buoyant' Economy**

*BK0401051396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bangladesh economy has shown signs of buoyancy. Bangladesh Bank governor, Khurshid Alam, on Tuesday last predicted overall good economic performances during the current fiscal year despite the prevailing political unrest. The targeted growth rate might cross 5 percent, he said.

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Talking to the members of the Economic Reporters Forum, the Central Bank's chief executive said that during the July-November period, exports have increased by 7.1 and imports by 38.9 percent. Domestic credit during the period increased by 3.84 percent. The foreign currency reserve stood at $ 2.37 billion which is equivalent to four months import bill at the end of November 1995. The reserve was $3.2 billion two years back. Import of food grains in huge quantity was the major factor for the downward trend in the foreign currency reserve. An amount of $476 million had to be spent to pay the food import bill during the last fiscal year and $191 million during the July-September period of the current fiscal year, Khurshid Alam said.

He said that imports of nonessential goods, including motor vehicles, had also increased considerably. As a result, import growth reached 49.5 percent during the July-September period. The Central Bank immediately intervened and asked the commercial banks to discourage import of nonessential items. The Central Bank has also increased the letter of credit margin by 25 percent which helped reduce the growth rate to 38.9 percent at the end of November 95, he said. During the July-November period, export earnings were registered at $1.583 billion as against import spending of $2.798 billion.

The Central Bank's chief executive gave detailed breakup of imports during the July-October period, which included $311 million for import of consumer goods, $184 million for petroleum products, $767 million for industrial raw materials, $465 million under back- to-back [word indistinct], $90 million for capital machinery, $249 million for other machinery, and $233 million for miscellaneous imports.

Total domestic credit at the end of November 1995 stood at 372.70 billion taka. The public sector credit was 102.80 billion, and private sector credit was 271.90 billion taka. During the July- November period, domestic credit was increased to 13.85 billion taka against which 12.69 billion taka was increased in the private sector and 1.82 billion taka in the public sector. The net government borrowings were nil rather the government had to pay back 680 million taka during the period under study.

## India

### Kashmiri 'Militants' Arrested in Delhi Blast Probe

*BK0501015996 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two persons belonging to a Kashmiri militant group have been arrested in connection with yesterday's explosion in north Delhi. The minister of state for home, Syed Sibte Razi, today said the arrests were made last night based on clues obtained by investigating agencies. The minister met a large number of traders representatives during his visit to the area this morning and assured them that all possible measures are being taken to strengthen security. Meanwhile, the death toll in the blast has gone up to seven with one more person succumbing to his injuries.

### Delhi Says Arms Drop Plane Parked at Karachi Airport

*BK0501054996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has admitted that the AN-26 plane responsible for arms dropping at Purulia was parked at Karachi for several days. The Pakistani authorities say the plane was parked at the Karachi International Airport from the 27th November to the 7th of last month.

### Fourteen 'Militants' Arrested; 4 Killed

*BK0401160296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces apprehended 14 militants and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition during different search operations. According to an official spokesman in Jammu, the body of a militant was recovered from Kaka road who was killed by a rival militant group. Three militants were killed in an encounter at Sali, while two other militants were killed at Pampur. Militants killed three persons who were abducted on the first of last month from Doda District.

### Commentary Accuses Pakistan of Exporting 'Terrorism'

*BK0501111596 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Commentary by A.J. Phillip, senior editor of INDIAN EXPRESS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The arrest of the dreaded terrorist, Mohammad Anees, and five others, all holding Pakistani passports, for plotting to kill president of the Philippines, Mr. Fidel Ramos, from suburban Makati in Manila reinforces the charge against Pakistan of exporting terrorism. They are among the 27 foreigners, mostly from Pakistan, who have been taken into custody by the Philippines police since mid-December last. The biggest catch of them all Anees is no ordinary terrorist as he is a close associate of Ramzi Yusuf, who is being held in New York on charges of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The duo had plotted to

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kill Pope John II during the pontiff's visit to Manila last January. It was Anees and his group that had planted a bomb in a Philippines Airlines flight from Manila to Fukuoka in Japan, besides organizing a series of terrorist attacks in the country. Obviously, the protest President Fidel Ramos made against Pakistan for aiding and abetting terrorism in his country during his last visit to Pakistan has not yielded any results. In fact, it seems Pakistan has intensified its sinister operations in that country over the last few months.

The Philippines is not the only country to campaign against Pakistan for exporting terrorism. While the dubious role Pakistan has been playing in Kashmir, Punjab, and the Northeastern states of India is too well-known to need any enumeration, more and more countries have been coming at the receiving end of Pakistan. Apart from India and the Philippines, other countries which have protested against Pakistan's support to terrorist groups include Afghanistan, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, and Russia. Small wonder, the United States had toyed with the idea of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state until its own selfish interest forced it to abandon the plan.

Terrorism as a means to pursue foreign policy is nothing new to Pakistan. It has been trying it out in Kashmir ever since it sent hoards of tribal invaders to forcibly capture Srinagar in the wake of the partition. However, it was the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan that allowed Pakistan to perfect its techniques of subversion. It set up a host of training camps where thousands of Islamic militants were given training to evict the Russians from Afghanistan. Cash and weapons flowed from the West as Pakistan was believed to be engaged in keeping the Russians at bay. The United States chose to ignore the fact that a sizable portion of the weapons was being diverted to Kashmir to keep the artificial fire of secession burning in the valley. After the end of the Afghan war, Pakistan should have disbanded the training camps, but its did not as it wanted to use them for a much bigger operation. There are now 30 or so terrorist organizations like the Harkatul Ansar and Al- Faran with their headquarters in Pakistan. They do not face any restrictions in raising funds, recruiting mercenaries, and employing Afghan war veterans to train them in camps located at Kahuta, Rawalakot, Kotli, Mirpur and Muzeffarabad. It is the job of the Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI, to provide them with necessary support. The heroic welcome accorded to the Afghan war veteran Mast Gul after he escaped from Charar Sharif proved beyond a shadow of doubt that it was Pakistan that engineered the destruction of the revered shrine. Emboldened by the inability of the West, particularly the United States, to condemn its terrorist operations, Pakistan had been spreading its terrorist tentacle, as more and more countries like the Philippines and Egypt, whose embassy in Pakistan was destroyed in a recent bomb attack, have begun to realize.

**Government Cautioned on Pakistan Dialogue Offer**

*BK0501060896 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 3 Jan 96 p 6*

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Offer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee has welcomed Pakistan's latest offer to resume negotiations with India, and has expressed his hope that Pakistan will fully cooperate during the discussions, this hope is not likely to bear fruit. Despite Pakistan's intentions to hold talks with India, internally its sole aim is to weaken India using all possible means. Is Pranab Mukherjee not aware that Home Minister Shankar Rao Chavan and State Home Minister Sibte Razi have repeatedly asserted that Pakistan is deeply involved in anti-India activities? Has he also forgotten Prime Minister Rao's recent charge following the recovery of weapons air-dropped in Purulia district that the neighboring country responsible for this act would be taught a bitter lesson and that this neighboring country is none other than Pakistan? Is it not ludicrous that while many Indian Ministers are raising an accusing finger at Pakistan for spreading terrorism in India, our External Affairs Minister is expressing his delight at Pakistan's offer thereby raising hopes that this country will display a friendly attitude towards India? Does he not feel a friendly attitude is essential in establishing peaceful relations? How could Mr. Mukherjee be so naive as to entertain such absurd hopes?

It is true that Benazir Bhutto has offered to resume negotiations with India with no conditions, but that does not necessarily mean she is willing to have a 'meaningful' dialogue with India either. Had she been truly honest in her intentions she would not have openly declared that Pakistan would continue to provide moral support to the terrorists active in Kashmir. While making this offer she also admitted that relations between India and Pakistan would not improve unless the Kashmir dispute was resolved amicably. So is a condition for holding talks with India to keep the Kashmir dispute in the proposed discussions? Kashmir is very much an integral part of India and there is no need for India to enter a discussion with a foreign country concerning its own territory. In fact the origins of the problems in Kashmir are the direct result of Pakistan's secret, and open, terrorism in Kashmir. Before entering any discussion with Pakistan, India must demand that Pakistan stop interfering in our internal affairs. By not interfering it would instantly

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resolve all issues concerning Kashmir. It is unfortunate that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee needs to deem a criteria for dialogue with Pakistan to be Pakistan's complete withdrawal from Kashmir. Of course a dialogue with Pakistan is necessary to resolve the dispute concerning Pakistan's illegal possession of Kashmir. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has already declared that the only dispute between India and Pakistan is the issue of Pakistani Occupied Kashmir.

In the light of the above, even welcoming Pakistan's latest offer for negotiations is tantamount to getting trapped in its sinister game. While offering to hold 'meaningful' dialogue with India, the charges leveled at India by Benazir Bhutto are only a publicity gimmick to impress upon the world that it is India which is avoiding resolution to the dispute. The proper answer to Benazir Bhutto's offer would have been Pranab Mukherjee's unambiguous statement asking Pakistan to desist from engineering any trouble in Kashmir, Punjab, and in the North Eastern States. Instead of realizing Pakistan's vile intentions, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee welcomed Pakistan's offer, and by doing this he has added confusion to Pakistan's stand towards India. Before coming up with such confusing statements, the Indian leadership should realize that Pakistan is out to hatch conspiracies, which will cause India to break up.

At all levels - political, economic, cultural - Pakistan expresses its deep-rooted enmity and hostility towards India. By refusing entry visas to an Indian hockey team, by banning Indian songs and by refusing to allow Indian artists into Pakistan, Pakistan has erected innumerable hurdles in developing economic and trade relations with India. Pakistan continues to reiterate its commitment to assist the terrorists in Kashmir and to show Pakistan's diehard enmity for India. It continues to reek of its strong anti-India sentiment. This is no time to welcome Pakistan's deceitful offers but instead to realize the vile intentions of Pakistan that are hidden behind these offers for peaceful settlement and to be wary of its sinister designs.

**Article Claims Pakistan To Target Economy**

*BK0501095996 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 28 Dec p 8*

[Article by K. Subrahmanyam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Just as there are credit ratings for nations there are perhaps security ratings also carried out by international consultancy firms specialising in investment risks. One wonders how these ratings have moved in respect of India following the Bombay blasts or the recent air dropping of arms in Purulia. It is reasonable to guess the risk ratings would have moved up, affecting adversely the prospects of investment inflows. One wonders whether there are any costs and benefits analyses alone in our ministry of finance of expenditure to improve the security climate in the country and its positive impact on investment flows. The Asian tigers and China had no problems of security when they initiated the rapid industrialisation based on foreign direct investment. Today there is said to be organised crime and insecurity in some of the large cities of China but still here is no problem of terrorist violence as seen in India. In the case of other Asian tigers they are spared from terrorist violence.

When India embarked on globalisation and economic liberalisation terrorism was already a fact of life though it was confined to that stage to Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and parts of Tamil Nadu. In respect of Tamil Nadu it was not of the pervasive kind which scared off investments as happened in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Then come the Bombay blasts of March 1993, though the city of Bombay rallied round in very short time yet the blasts should have raised questions in the minds of foreign investors about the risks in investing in India. It will be three years in March since that day of terror and one could argue it is low history.

Terrorism in India is part of a covert war waged against this country by our neighbour, Pakistan. Even the Pakistani Government does not deny that many oranisations located in Pakistan carry out acts of terrorism. They only disclaim responsibility for the activities of those oranisations. Pakistan based and Pakistan trained persons carried out the World Trade Center bombing in New York and killed six CIA personnel in U.S. and Karachi. The Pakistani terrorist organisation, Harkatul Ansar, has been listed by the U.S. State Department in its publication "Global Patterns of Terrorism, 1994". It is widely believed that this organisation is responsible for the seizure of foreign hostages in the Kashmir Valley. Whatever be the Pakistani government's stand, the Indian security services believe that the Pakistani Inter Services Intelligence Wing has masterminded a wide range terrorist operations in India not only across its land borers with India, and the west coast of India but also across the Nepal and Bangladesh orders. In a sense what the Maoists talked about in the sixties — about starting a prairie fire in India now appears to be attempted by the Pakistani Inter Services intelligence [ISI].

Pakistan lost the covert war in Punjab and are now losing it in Kashmir. It is, however, obvious that unlike in the overt war when it is lost there is a war termination, in the case of a covert war the aggressor is in a position to change the front and tactics. From the disclosures of former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif and

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subsequent clarificatory writings in the Pakistani media a significant portion of the costs of the covert war appears to come from the narcotics traffic income laundered by Pakistani banks part of which is donated to the ISI. Therefore, this covert war is not waged with the Pakistani government resources. The ISI is controlled by the Pakistani army chief and not by the Pakistani Government. In the past it has had as its chiefs committed Islamic visionaries and bulk of its cadres have been conditioned for years under General Zia-ul-Haq and his successors. A number of other terroristic organisations are also operating in Pakistan with resources raised from narcotics traffic and funds made available by some of the Islamic States who are considered moderate but have been financing extremist groups for decades. Intelligence organisations have been often known to use other terrorist groups for their covert activities. Every dirty trick in the trade was practised by the ISI; under the instruction of the CIA during the war in Afghanistan, and they have acquired enormous skills from them besides the sophisticated equipment and vast quantities of portable weapons.

Pakistan is in the throes of a crisis brought about mostly by its own actions and policies. They have thousands of mercenaries, enormous quantities of arms, and narcotics money. The state is waging a civil war against the Muhajirs in Sindh. Sectarian clashes occur elsewhere. The tribals attempt to assert their own autonomy. Within the country the ruling party and the opposition are not on taking terms. The state is threatened by Islamic extremist elements in its own armed forces. Because of continuing violence in Karachi, the expected investments are not flowing in. Pakistan is facing an economic crisis as well and is under pressure from the International Monetary Fund to cut back on its defence spending and the government is reluctant to do so. The U.S. recognises all these factors and the fragility of Pakistani polity. They, however, consider involving Pakistan, especially its armed forces, in a constructive engagement as the best way of damage limitation. Ms. Benazir Bhutto has borrowed the idea from General Zia-ul-Haq and by declaring herself a frontline state in the containment of Iran by the U.S. she expects to be able to obtain U.S. military support, persuade the U.S. to look away from Pakistan's pursuit of international terrorism and pursue her own agenda of destabilising India. From all evidence available, it seems the U.S. obsessed with its animosity towards Iran, is going along with Pakistan irrespective of the consequences for the entire region. Their policies of the eighties destroyed the Afghan State and destabilised Pakistan and their present policies are encouraging Pakistan to pursue vigorously its terrorist campaign against India.

Against this broad assessment, our security planners have to anticipate the various strategies Pakistan will unleash for its terrorist campaign against India. Pakistan, having failed in its terrorist offensives in Punjab and Kashmir and the flow of narcotics having came down because of very belated fencing of the frontier by India, is likely to target the Indian economy. They are confident that because of their acquisition of nuclear weapons India would not be able to escalate the confrontation and therefore they can pursue their campaign of terrorism without worrying about high penalties. The U.S. is likely to look away from the Pakistani terrorism against India since they swallowed even the killing of six CIA men and the kidnapping of a U.S. tourist in Kashmir. The Pakistani strategy is likely to focus on undermining the confidence of foreign investors in India by creating terrorist turbulence around major cities and ports. The period before, during and immediately after the elections is one of extreme vulnerability from the Indian point of view. During that time a lot of foreign funds of questionable origin flow in, politicians are more relaxed about organised crime because of their dependence on them during elections and the law and order machinery gets overstretched.

Pakistan is likely to be sore about its inability to benefits out of economic liberalisation because of the Karachi situation. Given their animosity towards India their logical target will be the foreign investment climate in this country. This country does not have an appropriate decision making structure to anticipate and effectively forestall such threats. No other country had to undertake its economic liberalisation process under such an external threat. Unfortunately our decision makers do not appear to be aware of the extent of the threat or the imperative need to counter it. While the Clauswitzian maxim that war is a continuation of politics by other means is no longer valid in respect of high intensity conventional wars in industrialised and relatively advanced developing countries it remains applicable in respect of covert war against the economy of a neighboring country.

**Speakers Call For More Cooperation With U.S.**

*BK0401163096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speakers at an international symposium in New Delhi have stressed the need for increased cooperation between India and the United States in the post Cold War scenario. The former foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, said opportunities for cooperation between the two countries are unlimited. He said the United States should appreciate the problems

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and concerns of India better to make such cooperation a reality.

The president of the Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan, in the United States, Dr. Eric R. Gilbertson, said economic reforms in India have thrown up great prospects for shared prosperity between the two nations.

**Rao Holds Talks With Singapore Minister**

*BK0401163296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Singapore minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, has said he is impressed by the Indian economic reforms program. During an hour long talk meeting with the prime minister in New Delhi today, Mr. Lee referred to the growing and more comprehensive interaction with the ASEAN countries. The prime minister explained the economic liberalization exercise and stressed that it had widespread support within the country and has developed its own self-sustaining momentum.

Later, Mr. Lee met the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and conveyed Singapore's continued interest in economic partnership with India. While addressing a select audience in the capital, Mr. Lee said Singapore's economic miracle was possible because the administration was made into an effective instrument to guide the city state.

**Commentary Sees Positive Outcome of SAARC Meeting**

*BK0501055796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[Commentary by Snehalata Bhatia]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day meet of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] finance and planning ministers ended in New Delhi yesterday on a positive note. The only agenda item was how to eradicate poverty in a specific timeframe. The meeting avoided any reference to bilateral issues. Instead, the ministers attempted to find ways and means of increasing cooperation amongst the member nations to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty in the region by the year 2005. The cooperation could be in the form of sharing experiences in carrying out poverty alleviation programs and free flow of trade, technology, and investment amongst the member nations. Though issues relating to reduction in tariff were raised to ensure larger trade volumes, the matter was left to the trade ministers meeting to be held next week. The group of finance and planning ministers was created in 1994 during the Dhaka convention. The New Delhi deliberations were aimed at working out a strategy to help the member nations to gain from each other's experience.

Several valuable suggestions emerged at the meeting. One is to continue the three-tier deliberation mechanism. Strategies are to be worked out at the official level. The first and second tiers are to be finalized later by the highest forum consisting of ministers from member countries. It was also decided that there should be regular flow of data and information on the success of poverty alleviation programs. Each member country is to nominate a nodal agency for transmitting the data. The meeting suggested that 1997 should be celebrated as the year of the deprived. The focus then should be on giving the deprived an opportunity to benefit from poverty alleviation schemes. In this context, the role of nongovernmental agencies — NGO's — was highlighted. NGO's could involve the deprived in working out their upliftment schemes. All SAARC nations have embarked upon economic reform programs. These reforms are aimed at improving living standards through employment, education, and health care.

India has started the reform process in 1991-92. The major achievement of the new economic policies is the sharp reduction in the number of people below the poverty line. The latest statistics show that against 24 percent of population below the poverty line in 1988-89, only 19 percent were below this line in 1993. India had achieved a breakthrough by sharply increasing allocations to employment generation schemes. One should hope that this conference would lead to a new era of economic cooperation among the SAARC nations as the organization moves toward the second decade of its existence as also toward the 21st century.

**Chavan Discusses Kashmir With British Home Secretary**

*BK0501092096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today reiterated the government's determination to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible. During his meeting with the visiting British home secretary, Mr. Michael Howard, in New Delhi today, Mr. Chavan said the restoration of democratic process is the only way to achieve peace in that state.

Mr. Chavan briefed Mr. Howard on the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir and told him that people in the state are fed up with the heinous activities of the militants. He also said that matters relating to the development of the state can be discussed with the people's representatives after restoration of a popularly elected government there.

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The home minister welcomed the recent statement of the Pakistan prime minister regarding holding of bilateral discussions with India on Kashmir issue. On the foreign hostages issue, he made it clear that there is no question of releasing terrorists in exchange for the release of hostages. He said all efforts are being made for securing the safe release of the foreign hostages.

The British home secretary fully endorsed the stand of the Indian government on the matter. The two leaders also discussed steps for countering the menace of drug trafficking.

**Air Chief, Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Assume Posts**

*BK3112105395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Air Chief Marshal S.K. Sareen took over as the new chief of air staff of the Indian Air Force in New Delhi today. He took over from Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, who retired after a distinguished career spanning more than four decades. On his arrival at the Air Headquarters, Air Chief Marshal Sareen was presented with a ceremonial guard of honor. This was followed by the handing-over ceremony in the office of the chief of air staff. Air Chief Marshal Sareen is the 17th chief of the Indian Air Force. Immediately after taking over, the new air chief addressed all the air officers, commanding in chiefs of Air Force Command, and the principal staff officers at Air Headquarters.

Speaking to newspersons after assuming office, Air Chief Marshal Sareen said the Indian Air Force has an edge over that of Pakistan, and it will be maintained at all cost. In reply to queries on the Hank Brown amendment, the air chief said the government is fully aware of its implications, and necessary steps are being taken.

The chief of the naval staff, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, took over as the chairman of the Chiefs of the Staff Committee from Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, who retired today. The committee comprises the three service chiefs of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force, and a longest-serving chief is appointed its chairman.

**3,000 Killed by Troops in Kashmir in 1995**

*BK3112153995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, widespread demonstrations were held against arsoning and indiscriminate killing of innocent people. In Srinagar, a big demonstration was triggered by the death in custody of a young man in downtown area of the city. Demonstrations have also been reported from Pulwama and (Ontipura). Nine more people are reported killed during the ongoing repressive operations by occupation forces. Indian troops also suffered heavy casualties in retaliatory attacks by mojahedin.

A report released by Kashmir Monitoring Forum indicates that some 3,000 people have been killed by Indian occupation forces during the year 1995. Reports PTV's special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal from New Delhi:

[Begin Khayal recording] In the year 1995, Indian security forces shot dead about 3,000 people to curb the ongoing freedom struggle in Kashmir. More than 700 soldiers and 1,500 fighters were also killed during the current year, the Kashmir Monitoring Forum said in its annual report released today. According to figures given out by the forum, among those killed also included 300 women and about 200 children. The forum, an unofficial agency, said there has been an alarming increase in the custodial deaths, with more than 300 Kashmiri youths having been done to death in interrogation centers and torture camps after arrests during the year.

The Hurriyat Conference also claimed in a statement last week that about 100 detained people were killed in custody during the last two months only. The conference has put the death toll in Kashmir during last six years at more than 40,000 people. The year 1995 also witnessed torching of the 600-year-old Islamic shrine of Charar Sharif, allegedly by the security forces. Indian Government postponed twice holding of elections in Kashmir, which is now reeling under India's direct rule for a record number of six years since 1990. [end recording]

**Year-End Review Shows Economy's 'Resilience'**

*BK3112105895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The country's economy showed resilience to stay on top despite several odds, such as fiscal deficit, external debt, fall in value of rupee against the U.S. dollar, and foreign exchange reserves.

The silver lining to the scenario toward a close of the year is that inflation was back to single digit. Exports went up and industrial production picked up. According to the year-end review, the fiscal deficit, which was 8.3 percent of GDP in 1990-91 was brought down to 5.9 percent in 1991-92 and 5.7 percent in 1992-93; 1995 was the fourth year of economic reforms initiated in 1991.

While Indian economy responded positively to the initiatives, the annual growth rate was put at around 6.2

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percent and is likely to be maintained. The industrial sector is described as far more competitive and is growing at an annual rate of 10 percent.

**Scientists Urged To Develop New Technology**

*BK0301114096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has called upon the scientists to develop new technology for facing future challenges of the country. Mr. Narasimha Rao's speech was read out in absentia at the opening session of the 83d Indian Science Congress in Patiala today. Mr. Rao, who was to inaugurate the congress, could not go there because of dense fog at Patiala Airport.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said that in the years to come the country's economic security will increasingly depend on its ability to compete in the global market, and our scientists have a major role to play in this connection. He said another major task before them is development of appropriate indigenous technologies for addressing the basic needs of the people. He said investments in fields like space, atomic energy, and nonconventional energy sources are bearing fruit today. Mr. Rao also urged the agricultural scientists to increasingly focus on improving productivity to meet the future food requirements of the country.

Delivering the presidential address, eminent scientist and former ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] Chairman Professor U.R. Rao said that India should take science and technology seriously and create a proper atmosphere for its rapid development if it wants to avoid its present marginalization in the global economy. He said this can be achieved by increasing the country's plan outlay for education and science and technology and spelling out goals clearly.

Professor Rao announced that the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and noted scientist Mr. T.N. Khurso have been selected for the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award this year.

**Independents Win Local Polls; Congress-I Defeated**

*BK0501054196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gujarat, independents have secured the maximum 971 seats in the elections to 27 nagarpalikas [municipalities] and 54 nagar panchayats [urban councils]. All the results have now come in. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] wins 863 of the total 1,932 seats. Quoting official sources, the AIR Ahmadabad correspondent reports that independents secured a majority of 14 nagarpalikas and 24 nagar panchayats, while the BJP got a majority in 13 palikas and 27 panchayats. The Congress-I managed to win 78 seats, while 20 others went to other parties.

**Minister Sees Current Account Deficit as Manageable**

*BK0501092996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, says the government intends to cut down on discretionary granting of import licenses. Several new items will be added to the Open General License category in an attempt to move away from such discretionary decision making, he said.

He was addressing businessmen and academics at a meeting organized to elicit their ideas on making amendments in the EXIM [Export-Import] policy, in New Delhi today. Mr. Chidambaram pointed out that the ministry has cut down drastically on licensing with only 57,000 licenses issued in 1994-95 as against more that 110,000 in 1991. The commerce minister was confident that the current account deficit now put at around four billion dollars is both sustainable and manageable for a growing economy like India. Measures are also being contemplated to enhance foreign institutional investment flows into India. He said the Finance Ministry, the Foreign Investments Promotion Board, and several other departments are being consulted in this regard.

## Iran

**Official Comments on U.S. 'Propaganda Campaign'**

*LD0401225296 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1940 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Studio interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister in charge of legal and international affairs, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Program" — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] As you know, recently the American psychological propaganda campaign against our country has been intensified. The bill to impose sanctions on companies which engage in commercial deals with Iran and the approval of a secret fund in order to confront the Islamic revolution are new forms of America's hostile plans against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this context, this week's program is devoted to an investigation of America's hostile actions against the Islamic system in Iran. This week we have asked His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister in charge of legal and international affairs, to be with us so that we can benefit from his views. Dr. Zarif, we thank you for taking part in this program.

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[Zarif] With greetings to you and dear viewers, we hope that we will be able to discuss this important issue during this opportunity and can investigate the different aspects concerning it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Zarif, as the deputy foreign minister in charge of legal and international affairs, how do you assess the legal aspects of this issue?

[Zarif] Each of these two plans [to impose sanctions on companies dealing with Iran and to allocate funds to destabilize the Iranian regime] have many features which violate international law, international norms, and international relations. Very briefly, I will refer to a few of these cases.

The first point is that both plans are contrary to the principles of the UN Charter on noninterference. They are also contrary to numerous resolutions of the UN General Assembly. There are many resolutions which make it illegal from the viewpoint of the UN Charter and from the viewpoint of international law to interfere either in the internal affairs of other countries or in the foreign relations of other countries.

The principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and the principle of respecting the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of other countries are the two binding principles of international law. It means that no other international law can violate those two principles or go against them, let alone the internal decision of a country. Therefore, those two resolutions are to be condemned both because they involve interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and because they interfere in the foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with other countries. On the basis of both those principles, these resolutions are to be condemned.

From a more detailed point of view, the resolution to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran — or the $20-million plan —is in fact an overt plan. As you said, this is not the first time that America has interfered in the internal affairs of Iran. [passage omitted] This is nothing new. However, what is new is that the American government engages in such actions in a public and official manner. This shows that they wish to justify an illegal action under a legal cover in their country, and this is very dangerous.

The second point is that as these measures are aimed at causing instability in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and providing support for some opposition groups. The terrorist activities and the record of the activities of those groups against the Iranian people and against the officials of this country — both inside and outside the country — have been clear and documented actions. Even the American government has announced that those groups are terrorist groups. Therefore, the American action in support of those groups is what according to international norms is called state sponsorship of terrorism.

On the other hand, as a government department in America — namely, the CIA — has been given the task of being directly involved in such destabilization activities inside our country, this is a clear example of what is called state terrorism. Both these issues are condemned according to international law. America claims to lead the struggle against terrorism. These measures show to what extent America's claims correspond to reality.

However, as for the other bill which is being discussed in the Congress, namely the bill to impose sanctions on the companies which have dealings with Iran — in addition to what I have already said, that such a measure is interference in the foreign relations of a country with other countries and this is condemned by international law and cannot be justified — in addition to that, on the basis of new regulations which have been approved by the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade which is known as the GATT Agreement, on the basis of those regulations the imposition of any nontariff restriction on trade is forbidden.

This American action is, in fact, the imposition of nontariff restrictions on America's own trading partners. This means that if a company is a trading partner of America and, on the other hand, wishes to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of oil exploration, that company would be deprived of certain privileges for continuing to trade in America. This foreign company has, in fact, been subjected to a restriction. This restriction is not in the form of a tariff, but on the basis of an internal law. This is contrary to the GATT regulations and to the regulations of the World Trade Organization.

The countries which are harmed as the result of these resolutions can take action, in the same way as in the case of Cuba, for example. A similar law which has been enacted against the Cuban Government for some time has met with the same legal measures and the issue of the imposition of nontariff restrictions has been raised by the trading partners.

[Correspondent] Beside the cases which you mentioned concerning government terrorism with regard to the U.S. move for preventing free trade and other moves which are against the UN Charter and diplomatic norms, the recent American moves seem to be in breach of U.S. undertakings in the Algiers Declaration.

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[Zarif] That is just as you say. What I said concerned general international law which America, as a member of the international community, should as rule be committed to. But the U.S. Government has undertakings also which result from agreements, the most important of which, concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran...[pauses] Although that is not the only case of it. We have an earlier, 1955 agreement with the United States which the recent moves also breach. But the most recent one is the 1981 agreement which is known as the Algiers Declaration. The first article of that declaration says that the United States pledges itself to avoid any intervention in the affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, this case of contractual undertaking by America with regard to its special relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran — whose special legal implementation mechanism exists in The Hague — is in fact over and above those international undertakings.

If you allow me I'll tell you another case of violation of international commitments which is within the framework of human rights. As you and the dear viewers know, two international human right conventions — namely the convention of civic-political rights and the convention of economic-social-cultural rights which constitute, so to speak, obligatory human rights conventions — have a common first principle — their only common principle. It is the right of nations to determine their own fate themselves. That principle is based on the right of any nation to determine its political, economic, social, and cultural status by itself without any foreign intervention. The American move is, in fact, a direct violation of the people of Iran's right to determine their own fate. The Iranians have clearly made their decision and have taken measures to determine their own fate. What America does for disrupting the exercise of that right by the people is a blatant case of violation of human rights, beside being a breach of its general international commitments and its special undertakings regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Correspondent] Mr. Zarif, in the previous question we looked at the case of violation by the United States of its own commitments; agreed commitments and international commitments. These issues were discussed in Mr. Velayati's letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. What was the secretary general's reaction?

[Zarif] The UN secretary general has certain responsibilities according to the UN Charter, certain other responsibilities according to the UN resolutions and regulations, and some other responsibilities according to plans put forward by the secretary general himself regarding the responsibilities of the secretariat, himself, and the United Nations within the current international situation.

There is no doubt that the creation of a precedent for establishing lawlessness and the law of the jungle through domestic lawmaking is dangerous for the international community and the secretary general has certain responsibilities in this regard. Of course the recent U.S. actions took place at a time when Western countries and the United Nations were on vacation at the end of the Christian year. We are now waiting to follow up the case seriously; that is, to follow up the letter as well as other matters with the secretary general after the holidays. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What preventive measures could Iran take against the interventionist actions of the United States?

[Zarif] From an international point of view, as I said earlier, it is possible to think of action within various international organizations, such as the office of the UN secretary general, the UN General Assembly, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization, as well as legal action. The necessary studies are taking place before a decision is made.

[Correspondent] Everyone has learned through the media about Mr. Velayati's letter to the UN secretary general and his request that the letter should be treated as a council document. But what about other things? Have there been practical steps by the Foreign Ministry or other agencies? We have witnessed action taken by the Majles and a proposal put forward by Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the honorable Majles speaker.

[Zarif] As I said, the Foreign Ministry has taken some steps. The first step was the letter from Dr. Velayati to the UN secretary general. The second step was his letter to the Islamic Conference. Consultations have also started. Legal studies are under way in the view of the importance of the case and the need to study the various aspects of the case, and the case will be taken forward, God willing.

[Correspondent] God willing, and I thank you for coming on the program.

**Velayati Urges Muslim States To Counter U.S. 'Plots'**

*LD0401201196 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Foreign Minister] 'Ali Akbar Velayati travelled to the northeastern city of Mashhad, delivering a speech among the city's university teachers and students.

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Mr. Velayati, in a part of his speech, briefed the audience on the Middle East situation and said: The past few years' developments in the area are indicative of a precisely organized plot that is planned to change the political, social, economic, and cultural structures of the Middle East. He said: The plot of forming the so- called new Middle East dominated by the U.S. and the Zionist regime can be aborted by the brotherly cooperation of all Muslim and Arab nations.

**Velayati Promises Lebanon Help Against U.S.**

*LD3112125795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting between the members of the Association of Lebanese Muslim 'Ulema and Foreign Minister 'Ali-Akbar Velayati in Tehran this morning, the Middle East situation, in particular Lebanon, was discussed.

During the meeting, Velayati stressed that Iran's support for the struggles of the Lebanese people will continue until the Zionist regime's aggression is eliminated. He also stressed the need for preserving the territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Our country's foreign minister praised the determining role of the religious scholars and clerics in the rightful struggles of the resisting Lebanese nation in the face of the Zionist regime's aggression and pointed out the need for vigilance by Muslims in the face of U.S. and Zionist conspiracies in the region.

At the meeting, the head of the Association of Lebanese Muslim 'Ulema, Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayin, declared the association's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the U.S. and Zionist comprehensive onslaught saying: The struggle by the Muslim people of Lebanon will continue till all the occupied lands are liberated.

**Voices Support for 'Struggle'**

*NC0101081896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for the Lebanese people's struggle against Zionist aggression.

Receiving a delegation from the Lebanese Muslim ulema grouping, Velayati noted Tehran's commitment to Lebanon's territorial integrity. He asked Lebanese intellectuals and clergymen to exert efforts against conspiracies hatched by the United States and world Zionism targeting the unity of the Muslims' ranks.

Sidon's religious judge Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn, member of the delegation, asserted that the struggle against the Zionist enemy will continue until all occupied territories are liberated. He said the grouping supports Iran against the recent U.S. and Zionist plots.

**Radio: U.S. Behavior 'Jeopardizing' World Peace**

*LD0401152196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Although four years have passed since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, it seems the mentality that dominated the cold war era is continuing to cast its influence on the American Administration. This type of thinking, which ranges from terming some countries as threatening to conducting subversive activities against others, has now been added to Washington's foreign policy agenda. To quote one example, the latest reason given by American officials for the allocation of a $20 million fund for use against Iran is that this would prevent the disintegration of institutions that have become redundant in the post-cold war era inside the CIA. Diplomatic circles in America said that the head of the CIA has had to cope with strong resistance from right-wingers and Zionist circles when he tried to carry out reforms inside the CIA. Therefore, his acceptance of the views of the American Congress is the price he has had to pay for bringing about calm within the CIA.

Whether the decision of the American Congress to allocate a $20 million fund to be used against Iran is seen as a kind of psychological war against Iran, or, as a cover-up of the crisis within the American Administration, it raises the following question in the minds of the theoreticians of international relations: Is the world moving toward a kind of anarchism; in other words, chaos?

The international community has always been confronted by a kind of anarchism because of the sovereignty of countries and the absence of a higher power, yet the existence of international venues such as the United Nations and the existence of international laws and regulations have acted as a relative safeguard against outbursts of chaos in the world.

America's new project against Iran is matchless in the history of politics in the world; it ignores even these limited protections against disorder and aims to let chaos rule over the international community. [passage omitted]

In this respect, the United States, which claims leadership of the new world order and believes it is an affluent

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and democratic country, has now taken the lead in blatantly violating all bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Political analysts believe that if the international community, notably the United Nations, does not stop Washington from these unilateral measures, there is a danger other countries will also be indifferent toward international laws. And the outcome of this is that international relations will be governed by a kind of anarchism, seriously jeopardizing world peace and security.

Unfortunately, so far, the United Nations and many countries have been indifferent toward this event. Now, if certain measures such as those adopted by America against Iran were to turn into conventions dominating international relations, then no country will be immuned from its harm.

**Commentary Calls U.S. Policies 'Failure'**

*NC0401140896 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Dec 95 p 14*

[Commentary by Maryam Mahdvai: "America at an Impasse!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the failure of America's commercial and economic sanctions against Iran, Washington has begun a new series of hostile acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran. What can be clearly said about the failure of America's sanctions against Iran is that the European countries failed to observe them and that future attempts by America will definitely also be defeated.

So far, America's actions and plots, both major and minor, against the Islamic Republic of Iran have not only failed to halt Iran's development process or its developmental and industrial projects. It has also been unable to create a recession. Instead, we have even seen intensive competition among foreign companies to participate in various projects. Therefore, at a time when the European countries strongly oppose Washington's anti-Iranian economic policies, America is thinking of funding anti-Iranian terrorist acts and has approved a bill punishing companies that invest in Iran. This bill deprives foreign countries that support the Islamic Republic of Iran of special export privileges, loans, and permits.

It seems that even after 17 years the Americans have still not been able to get over the shock they got from the Islamic Revolution and other profound global developments and are unable to comprehend the new array of forces on the international scene. Various power centers in the world today are competing for a better, more advantageous position; and "interests" and "profits" are the only words relevant to international relations. Nevertheless, the United States—a country that wants to be the world's superpower and pursues its own economic policies, however illogical—expects commercial and industrial firms around the world that are seeking markets to be "terrified" by its "make or break" policies.

Actually, the intensification of the pressures against the Islamic Republic of Iran is a sign of America's overt failure in isolating Tehran.

Martin Indyck, the architect of the policy of containing Iran, wanted to limit Iran's trade with other countries and—according to his miscalculations—to bring Iran, a country that has made a revolution, to its senses. But the only tangible outcome of this policy was the isolation of America throughout the world, since it was unable to disrupt Iran's economic, political, and other relations for a single moment. Actually what the Americans achieved with this policy was to open the way for their rivals and competitors.

It seems that today America's foreign policy is no longer based on its own domestic interests. Clinton's recent remarks that the key to the normalization of Iranian-U.S. relations lies in Tehran's ending its assistance to the Lebanese Hizballah reveals the major objective of America's sanctions policy. All of America's allegations of an increase in Iran's military budget, its human rights abuses, etc. are actually aimed at obscuring this major objective—that is, forcing Iran to acquiesce to the Arab-Israeli peace process. But this is something they cannot hide. The "interests" of the American people are being sacrificed for Israel's long-term "interests" in this region. The Zionists are infiltrating America's decision-making and legislative circles in order to solve their own problem.

There are a few more points we have noted about the various ins and outs of America's Iran policy. The recent decisions show that the Americans have completely lost hope for their efforts to overthrow the Iranian Government. Having accepted this undeniable truth, they are now seeking other means to fight us. They realize that Iran can be a very good model for political Islam and Islamic struggle. And now, with the formation of Islamic movements in the regional countries, America is trying to identify the special qualities of revolutionary Islam and to find ways to contain and control it. But of course, it has not yet been able to do so.

Moreover, after 17 years of U.S. enmity and hostility to Iran, Clinton has suddenly become conciliatory, claiming America has problems with Iran but not with the Iranian people—as if American statesmen have forgotten their hatred of our great nation. Iranian history records the imposition of the [Iran-Iraq] war;

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the massacre of innocent people, including children, with the missiles that the Americans gave to Iraq; the attack on the Iranian airliner, killing innocent people; and hundreds of similar cases. And now, by this blatant violation of international law and agreements, they are violating our country's sovereignty while scheming against Iran's popular system.

Mr. Clinton should realize that our people and government are one and that Iranians consider hostility toward our people and government to be one and the same. Our people and government have said for years that we have no problems with either the American people or Government. We are only against the arrogant, hegemonistic, and bullying policies of that country; we are firm in this belief.

**Commentary on Ineffectiveness of U.S. Sanctions**

*LD2312130395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 95*

[Station commentary: "China and an Analysis of American Embargoes Against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The spokesman of China's foreign ministry, Chen Jin, yesterday, in a dialogue with the IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY, underlined the ineffectiveness of new U.S. efforts for imposing trade sanctions on and pressuring Iran.

The remarks of the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman comes under circumstances when incoming reports from Washington are indicative of new decisions for intensifying the hostile attitude of the White House toward Tehran. In this connection the U.S. Senate recently ratified a bill for stepping up economic sanction against Iran. The bill, in the meantime, empowers and enables the American President to enforce punitive measures against companies investing in the Iranian oil industry.

In reaction to the recent decisions of Washington, the spokesperson of the European Union's bureau in Washington has, moreover, called the latest U.S. provocations as to escalating economic embargoes against Tehran, as another example of American efforts for imposition of her viewpoints on territories beyond her jurisdiction.

As far as the political experts are concerned, Washington has apparently chosen to ignore the realities of the post-Cold War era, a matter which has per se caused the failure of U.S. sanction- oriented policies against Iran. These analysts hold that our present world is a multipolar system, on the basis of which the Islamic Republic of Iran can easily meet her requirement via many countries such as China, Japan, as well as great many European states. For instance one can mention the contribution of the French Total company and the American Conoco in Iran's oil and gas projects within the Persian Gulf region. It should be noted that following the clamping of an all-out economic blockade on Iran by the U.S., the contracts of the American Conoco company with Iran were revoked from January 1995 onwards.

Experts say that America's sanctions on Iran have, more than affecting the economic activities of the Iranians, brought a great deal of damage and loss for American firms. This is a matter which most U.S. oil companies readily admit. The truth is that at present the European countries and the advanced nations are under such conditions that [they] simply don't like to follow suit the unreasonable demands of the White House officials as to limiting their economic cooperations with Iran. The recent remarks of the Chinese foreign ministry official of the uselessness of Washington's intimidatory actions against Tehran is basically a proof to this very fact.

**Daily Hails Majles Anti-U.S. Measures**

*LD0101070296 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 6 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Monday hailed the move by the Iranian Majles and called for serious encounter with the "Great Satan."

The editorial was commenting on the Sunday proposal by the Majles speaker to allocate a budget to counter U.S. anti-Iran operations.

"Although it came after some delay, it was an effective and necessary measure," said the paper.

The editorial also welcomed the proposal by more than 180 Majles deputies demanding replacement of American technology with non- American technology.

Once these proposals are put to action, the Great Satan is sure to suffer a great loss at international level. The Majles measure will also make the U.S. Administration regret its latest anti-Iran move.

It is no secret that Washington since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution has spent far more than dlrs 20 million in operations against Iran including financing the counterrevolutionary groups and activities. But, this time the only difference is that the U.S. congressional move is accompanied by massive propaganda.

The U.S. action while in complete violation of all international norms, once again discloses the true face of Great Satan as the main center of state-sponsored terrorism.

White House is neglecting the fact that the counterrevolutionary elements to whom part of the dlrs. 20 million

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budget is to go, will spend the money for their personal use rather than for operations against Tehran.

Washington better remember "there are many volunteer groups in the world willing to put U.S. interests throughout the world in jeopardy," it pointed out.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in conclusion said what the Majles is trying to do is "tit for tat."

**U.S. Said Planning To Confront Islamic 'Upsurge' in Bosnia**

*NC0501084396 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Dec 95 pp 3, 14*

[Commentary by A. Salaheddin: "America's Problems Confronting the Islamic Upsurge in Bosnia" under the rubric "Monday's Note"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Remarks by Clinton on Bosnia two nights ago, saying "our intervention in the Bosnian crisis has proven America's role in world leadership," reminds us of America's historic comments after dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. Then, it said: "With this bomb, we have extinguished the fire of the war. By killing 300,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki we have prevented millions more from dying!"

Prominent U.S. politician Kissinger explicitly stated years ago: "There is no place for moral interpretation in our policy; only U.S. interests are important to us." Today, alert people know that with American intervention, tens of thousands of oppressed and defenseless Muslims have been killed to display the great strength of the great satan! America wants to show that it holds the key to tranquility in Bosnia. America did not even allow European countries like Germany and France to solve this crisis in their own way. It even abandoned its futile efforts to prove, as Kissinger said, that morals and fairness have no place in this solution and that the main objective is to show the extent of America's power. Reports published in the U.S. press show that Zepa and Srebrenica were occupied by the Serbs after they got the green light from the Americans, that, with the knowledge of America, 5,000 Bosnian Muslims were massacred in Srebrenica and buried in mass graves, and that, on American orders, the Muslim Bosnian army stopped its advance. America knew all these things and fanned the flames of tragedy to make the world realize that if America did not intervene, the crisis would not be solved and that a solution to the crisis could only be offered by the binding pact signed in Dayton!

Today the Europeans, especially Germany and France, have realized all these things and are discussing a new NATO organization to emerge from the impasse created by America, largely because of its policies. Last week's meeting between Kohl and Chirac in a German city should be viewed in line with the thinking that NATO is working more for America's benefit than Europe's, that it does not meet today's requirements, and that a new military and economic pole should be formed.

In parallel with the plan for a "new NATO," America's other plan for Bosnia has been revealed. It is based on Bosnia's military, social, and cultural affairs being handed over to the current regime in Turkey, on the pretext that the Ottomans ruled the area for 500 years!

This new American policy aims for practical confrontation of revolutionary ideas infiltrating from a country like Iran. With this decision and the rule of Turkish secularists over Bosnia, changes can be made in the thinking of the risen Bosnian Muslim people such that the several hundred-strong "pro-Iranian" combatants will no longer be a big threat to the 60,000-strong NATO army!

During her recent visit to Bosnia, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller stated, very clearly, in unison with America's propaganda networks: "We should not let radical Islam infiltrate Bosnia."

All these show that the greatest obstacle to the aggressive and hegemonistic intentions of the great satan, America, is revolutionary Islam, exported from Iran, and that the West, headed by the United States, has placed confrontation of Iran at the top of the list of its programs. The CIA's allocating $20 million to organizations and individuals to carry out terrorist activities to alter the course of the Islamic Republic's revolutionary programs adopts its true meaning when viewed within this context.

But America should know that things have moved on and that with all the West's horrific crimes, the Muslims, especially the Bosnian Muslims, have awakened from their deep sleep and know just who their friends and foes are. Any movement or plan to confront this upsurge will only help to wake more Muslims and help them rise up.

**Bosnian Accord Said Signed To Benefit Democrats**

*NC2212132695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 95 p 2*

[Editorial: "What is the Threat to Dayton Peace Accord?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three warring republics of former Yugoslavia have finally realized that peace—even an unjust peace—is better than a bloody war. They gathered in Paris on Thursday [14 December] and inked the Dayton Peace Accord.

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Will this agreement lead to a real peace? Will the Serbs really remain committed to peace in days to come? Has the Clinton administration labored to get the peace accord out of altruism or have the Democrats sponsored the peace in order to garner votes in their competition with the isolationist Republicans.

American public is extremely sensitive to the death of any U.S. soldier outside U.S. territory. This sensitivity has its roots in U.S. aggression against Vietnam in the sixties and seventies. The Nixon Doctrine which banned the presence of any American troops outside U.S. territory was a response to this sensitivity. U.S. peacekeepers had to withdraw from Somalia because American public opinion could not tolerate the death of U.S. troops outside its territory.

Under the circumstances, the main threat to the Dayton peace accord comes from the Serbs. If the Serbs decide to undermine the peace accord by killing American soldiers, the Americans will have two options: (i) withdraw in order to appease the American public; (ii) remain firm in order to get the accord implemented. If they decide to withdraw, that will be the end of the peace and the beginning of another bloody war. If they decide to stay, the Republicans will try to capitalize on the death of American soldiers in their election campaign. The Democrats will then either have to remain loyal to peace or sacrifice the Bosnian peace at the altar of elections.

Although the Serbs have proven not to be reliable peace partners, they can be reined in if the U.S. and other countries sending 60,000 peacekeepers to Bosnia deal with them with an iron fist.

In case the Democrats decide to remain committed to peace, in the first instance, they must bring the Serb war criminals to book. Unless the war criminals are brought to book, the threat to the Dayton peace accord will remain. It is better to arrest and try the Serb war criminals before they bring Europe to the brink of another devastating war.

**Interference in Iraq Territorial Integrity Opposed**

*LD0401111696 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official stressed that Iran strongly opposes any interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

Speaking to the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' printed Thursday, 'Ali Khorram, advisor to the foreign minister said, "only the Iraqi people have the right to determine their fate."

Voicing concern over the Jordanian plan for peace in Iraq, he reiterated that the Islamic republic believes in Iraq's territorial integrity.

Commenting on the plan suggested by Jordan's King Husayn which calls for division of Iraq, he stated that some countries including Iran did not welcome the Jordanian monarch's plan which was engineered by Israel and the United States.

"The model was to remodel rich Iraq into three poor countries," he underlined.

"What we expect is that democracy should be introduced in Iraq along with equal rights for all Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish communities of that country," IRAN NEWS quoted him as saying.

Condemning any move which may cause tension in the region, Khorram reiterated, "tension and clashes in Iraq are neither in the interest of the people of that country nor the region as a whole."

"Iran wants that big powers should stop meddling in the affairs of the Iraqi people," the official underscored.

On Iran-Iraqi relations, he said that Tehran wants the two countries' relations to be based on the 1975 Algiers accord.

**Velayati Urges Resumption of Japanese Loans**

*OW0401072096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0127 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 3 KYODO — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali' Akbar Velayati said Wednesday [3 January] that he hopes Japan will resume its official yen loans to his country despite U.S. pressure against it doing so.

Velayati said in an interview with KYODO News and other major foreign news agencies that Tehran believes U.S. pressure on Japan not to resume yen loans is a major factor in leaving a Japanese freeze on its yen loans to Iran intact.

Japan provided 38.6 billion yen in the first batch of yen loans for a dam project in Iran in 1993, but has suspended a second batch of yen loans for it since may 1993.

Velayati said Iran is preparing to take a proposed U.S. bill to strengthen economic sanctions against Iran to the International Court of Justice if it is enacted.

He blasted the legislation as political strife over the November U.S. presidential election that is detrimental to a foreign country.

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The U.S. Congress is expected to pass the bill in the near future.

**President on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Power**

*LD0201133996 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi—Rafsanjani said here on Tuesday [2 January] Iran has now found the chance to become a center for peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Speaking to the scientists and researchers working for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) after a four-hour inspection of the organization, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the peaceful use of nuclear technology is the legitimate right of all nations and it is up to the managers and the scientists of any nation to try hard not to deprive their nation of such a divine gift.

He said the hue and cry and the political obstacles created to prevent Iran from gaining access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes should serve as a motive for Iranian scientists to make progress in this area. President Rafsanjani said, "Making use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes is something without which a country could not find its real standing in the world in the future. Therefore, the government supports the efforts made by scientists to promote nuclear technology."

Pointing to the need to complete Bushehr power plant, the president said Iran has emerged victorious from the political struggle over the issue and the work on completing the semi-finished Bushehr power plant has already begun. He said with completion of Bushehr power plant, the huge investment already made in the project would bear fruit.

Majles vice-speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani was accompanying the president during his inspection of the atomic energy [sentence as received].

**Kuwaiti Diplomat Discusses Trade Relations**

*NC0501082796 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jan 96 p 2*

[Report by KEYHAN's Shiraz correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador in Iran has explained how Iranians get visas to visit Kuwait. In an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Shiraz, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iran 'Abdallah 'Abd-al 'Aziz al-Duwaykh said: Groups wishing to visit Kuwait can obtain visas to visit and conduct trade whenever they wish.

He added that the Iranian Chamber of Commerce will provide the facilities for issuing trade visas to Kuwait based on recent bilateral agreements.

Regarding the residence and employment of Iranians who were working in Kuwait before the Persian Gulf war, the Kuwaiti ambassador said: Anyone who wants to go to Kuwait should be sponsored by an individual or company stationed in Kuwait.

He elaborated that the conditions for residence in Kuwait have changed and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will consider specific cases.

He said recent agreements between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait help broaden commercial, social, cultural, and political relations and stressed that a program will be implemented for the exchange of information and experiences.

While expressing satisfaction with bilateral relations, the ambassador reiterated that his country has no intention of setting up a consulate in Shiraz or any Iranian city with a special relationship with Kuwait.

Elsewhere in his interview the Kuwaiti ambassador commented on Iraqi refugees and said: Kuwait gives them monthly assistance through the International Red Cross. He said that only last week his country helped 5,000 Iraqi refugee families.

**Commentary on Karabakh Crisis, Visit by UK's Rifkind**

*LD0401175296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind concluded his visit to Armenia on the 3 January, and arrived in Baku, Azerbaijan Republic, for an official visit. In his meet with the President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, the British foreign secretary discussed the issues of mutual interest, as well as the Karabakh crisis. It seems the Karabakh crisis has attracted the attention of Rifkind more than any other issue, for the Karabakh crisis in the strategic and sensitive Caucasus region — where the big powers each seek their own interests there — enjoys grave significance.

Among the foreign factors active in the Karabakh crisis, Britain is one of the Western countries which seeks a vital role in this crisis. According to experts of Azerbaijan affairs, London has always believed that the settlement of the Karabakh is a requirement for the facilitation of economic cooperation with the Azerbaijan Republic. Of course, attention should be paid

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to the issue that such a view by London is within the framework of the objectives of the Western states, on the other side of which stands Russia, a traditional presence in the Caucasus.

Informed sources believe that though both sides express interest in the settlement of the Karabakh crisis, their rivalries, however, have prolonged it. In the meantime, the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Rifkind has placed a major objective behind his visit to Armenia and to Azerbaijan under conditions when the second round of direct talks between these two republics over Karabakh are scheduled to resume in Moscow within a few days.

Certainly any foreign party which can help the settlement of the Karabakh crisis more than others will enjoy a very special status, both in Azerbaijan and Armenia. Special status, according to experts, is what the British foreign secretary is seeking in Azerbaijan today. In this regard, in addition to Britain's former share in the Azerbaijan oil consortium, Malcolm Rifkind is seeking more shares in that consortium. In this regard, in addition to its political role in the Karabakh issue, London finds its age-old record of presence in the oil-rich countries a superiority compared to other rivals.

**Besharati Talks With Lebanon Muslim Leader**

*LD0101175196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Association of Lebanon's Muslim 'Ulema met and conferred with Interior Minister Mr. Besharati this afternoon.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn, head of the Association of Lebanon's Muslim 'Ulema, emphasized adherence to the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and the authority of the leadership of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He also stressed the need to preserve unity and fraternity with Iranian Muslim brothers.

He said: The policy of the Association of Lebanon's Muslim 'Ulema is based on struggle against the Zionist enemy, on jihad in the path of God, on unity between Shiites and Sunnis, on avoiding discord and tensions, and on adopting a firm and united stand to fight against the agents of arrogance in the region.

He also condemned the latest decisions of the U.S. Congress in allocating a budget for subversive activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The interior minister for his part stressed good relations between Iran and Lebanon, saying: The talk of peace in the Middle East which is being aired by the Americans and the Zionists is a factor for creating tension and discord in most Islamic countries.

He referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's capabilities brought about by its unity and solidarity, saying: It has been proven to America that war and economic sanctions have the opposite effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in that they increase Iran's economic power and its ability to build and develop the country as well as strengthen its military foundations.

**Tehran Urges Afghan Factions To Continue Talks**

*LD0201173496 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here Tuesday [2 January] hoped that the leaders of Afghan rival factions would agree to set at the negotiating table.

In a telephone conversation with the leader of the National Salvation Front of Afghanistan, Sibqatullah Mojaddedi, Borujerdi said that Afghan people should not be subject to further hardships caused by fighting and bloodshed, adding that putting an end to the fighting in Afghanistan is the responsibility shouldered by all peace-loving individuals.

Mojaddedi appreciated the well-intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said, "we believe that the problems would not be resolved until the transfer of power is carried out in Afghanistan."

He said the national survival of Afghanistan depends on the end of fighting and bloodshed and if all parties accepted the peace, the National Council would not oppose it.

**Borujerdi Discusses Afghanistan With Mojaddedi**

*LD0301165296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Pursuing his efforts to find a solution to the Afghan problem, Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Pacific, yesterday discussed on the telephone the recent political developments in Afghanistan with Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, former Afghan president. Mr. Mojaddedi praised Iran's goodwill efforts for the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Iran's deputy foreign minister also expressed the hope that the Afghan jihadi leaders will accept and suppport peace talks to resolve the problems.

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### Tehran's Peace Efforts in Afghanistan Noted

*NC0401084996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] While some Afghan groups continue to shell residential areas in Kabul with missiles, Afghanistan has been witnessing rapid political developments recently. The expression of an overt wish by the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani and by the opposition for continuing political talks and spreading them to include other groups in various parts of Afghanistan is considered to be a significant step toward the solution of the crisis. This is at a time when—under the present conditions—people throughout Afghanistan, who have been exposed to various tragedies stemming from the war, consider peace to be a vital necessity for the continuation of their lives and warmly welcome all peace-seeking efforts, both at home and abroad.

Efforts by the Afghan Government and the opposition to achieve peace, which do not conform with the interfering strategy of foreign powers, have given rise to the hopes that a new door will be opened for overt talks among the Afghan groups, especially under the current sensitive conditions. Currently, members of the Coordination Council of the government opponents—that is, Golboddin Hekmatyar, General Dostam, and Seghatollah Mojaddedi—are negotiating and striving to achieve practical outcomes to end their wars with the Rabbani Government.

Each one of these groups expressed its goodwill in one way or another this week. In an unexpected move, Hekmatyar's party opened up the Jalalabad-Kabul highway to hundreds of trucks carrying fuel and foodstuff for Kabul residents. The Northern Movement headed by General Dostam too displayed its goodwill by ending its battles with the government forces in the north and called for all the conflicting groups to participate in political talks with the government. And finally, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of Afghanistan's National Liberation Front, contacted the deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran by telephone and stated that if all the groups accept talks under current conditions, his group will not disagree.

But unfortunately the bombarding of Kabul's residential areas continues, and the latest reports on casualties speak of 20 dead and 50 wounded. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic's persistent and uninterrupted efforts for the establishment of peace, and various significant visits by the deputy foreign minister to Afghanistan and his meetings with the heads of many of the conflicting groups have had a considerable impact on the acceleration of the process of group talks as well as on bringing their opinions closer. Many people believe that these talks will achieve a final, favorable result when the rival groups will refrain from factionalism and ethnic hegemonism and work to pave the way for national unity.

### Afghan Consul General Praises Peace Efforts

*LD0201130796 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 2, IRNA — Afghan consul general in Peshawar Seyyed Soleyman Shah has praised Iran's sincere endeavers for finding a peaceful solution to crisis in his country.

Speaking to IRNA in Peshawar on Tuesday, he expressed his confidence that the Afghanistan problems would be solved thanks to the good will and sincere efforts of Iranian officials.

The Afghan official added that Iran tries to persuade the warring groups in Afghanistan to put aside their differnces and close their ranks in a bid to pave the way for restoration of peace and stability and for reconsruction of the war torn country.

Seyyed Soleyman Shah was appointed as the consul general in Peshawar two days ago. The former official in the post, Mousa Khan, had been expelled from Pakistan on 24 Dec. 1995.

### Commentary Praises Role in Resolving Afghan Conflict

*LD0101191496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his talks with journalists, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, praised the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish peace in Afghanistan. Ali said: A few days ago he spoke on telephone to Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati about the Afghan problem. Those remarks by the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs' are of importance because it shows more coordination between Tehran and Islamabad to help resolve the Afghan problem.

Iran's deputy foreign minister met Pakistan's president and prime minister in Islamabad last week. After his visit to Islamabad, the Iranian official tried to bring closer the views of the Afghan government leaders and those of their opponents.

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It is also to be mentioned that Tehran has included talks with Taleban on its agenda in order to persuade this group to accept a political solution. Informed persons describe this change as a sign of further cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad on ending the Afghan problem. Surely, there are still some obstacles. So far no success has been achieved in persuading Taleban to concede a fair share in the future political power and to accept peace. Informed Afghan sources are of the opinion that Pakistan is much able to remove that obstacle, i.e., the Taleban's unbending stance. There has also been criticism of Benazir Bhutto's government's policy in Pakistan which put pressure on Islamabad in connection with its support for Taleban. Taking into account those plans, it is hoped that in the future Islamabad will make efforts to bring about cooperation among the Afghan groups. Political observers consider the softening of the Taleban stance on talks regarding the transfer of power a modification in Islamabad's attitude.

### Borujerdi on Support To End Afghan Conflict

*LD0101202896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and the Pacific says that he is delighted with the new political developments in Afghanistan and the inclination on the part of the warring groups to agree to talks. He emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with all resistance groups in Afghanistan to establish peace in that country.

Mr. Borujerdi explained that although there are many difficulties standing in the way of the restoration of peace and an end to conflict in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran is very hopeful and optimistic about the bright future of these talks.

Regarding Iran's efforts to bring the stances of the Taleban group closer to those of Mr. Rabbani's government, Mr. Borujerdi said: Iran will support every effort to end the fighting.

### Ukrainian Legislator Urges Promotion of Ties

*LD0201154996 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — Member of the board of directors of Ukrainian Parliament Pavolovsky here Monday [1 January] called for promotion of scientific and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

In a meeting with Iranian vice-chairman of Majles foreign policy commission Mohammad Javad Larijani, Pavolovsky also called for banking facilities to boost Tehran-Kiev trade relations.

Pavolovsky, heading a delegation, arrived in Tehran earlier on Tuesday.

Larijani said formation of Tehran-Kiev joint economic commission would serve to upgrade the economic relations between the two countries.

Larijani also said the Iranian Institute for Theoretical Physics and Mathematics was ready for scientific and technological cooperation with similar institutes in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Larijani accepted an invitation extended to him by his Ukrainian counterpart to pay a visit to that country which he hoped will take place in the near future.

### Holds Talks With Va'ezi

*LD0401074096 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA — Tehran-Kiev political, economic and trade cooperation were reviewed in a meeting between a senior member of ukranian parliament, Mykhaylo Pavloskiy, and Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, here Wednesday [3 January].

Pavloskiy, heading a parliamentarian delegation, is currently in Tehran for talks with high-ranking Iranian officials.

Exploring fresh avenues in bilateral ties, both sides called for holding the first session of Iran-Ukraine joint economic commission in the near future.

Referring to potentials for economic cooperation, Va'ezi said that expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation at regional level is key to regional economic development.

Va'ezi, said that in the light of historical ties, long-standing bilateral cooperation and common stance of both countries on regional and international issues, there are appropriate grounds for further promotion of Iran-Ukraine relations.

Pavloskiy said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a reliable and strategic partner of Ukraine in the region and added that Kiev is ready to upgrade its allout relations with Tehran.

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**Paper Views Developments in Saudi Arabia**

*LD0301163596 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA — A morning daily Wednesday [3 January] referred to the handing over of administrative powers by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Crown Prince 'Abdallah and said political observers and analysts of the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia in Iran are of the opinion that King Fahd's illness is such that there is no possibility of his return to the throne.

The analysts say that if there was any hope for his return to the throne, the monarch would have not assigned his administrative powers over to the crown prince, IRAN NEWS wrote in its editorial.

"In Saudi Arabia rulership and power are hereditary and the younger brother, not the son, of the reigning monarch is next in line to the throne," the daily added.

"During the last few years, there were rumors of serious disputes in the Saudi ruling family. The reports said that Prince 'Abdallah and Defense Minister Prince Sultan and Interior Minister Prince Nayif have deep-rooted disputes over vital issues related to the country's administration and also Saudi Arabia's foreign policy," commented the editorial.

Stressing that the unusual presence of the American forces in this strategically important part of the world is a source of concern in the region, IRAN NEWS said, "the Saudi monarchy is to be blamed on this account too."

"It is quite natural that Tehran views the developments in Saudi Arabia with great sensivity. Political observers in Iran also believe that the Islamic government desires to have friendly relations with Riyadh," said the article.

"We are sure that if Prince 'Abdallah, as it is generally believed, is relatively more independent when it comes to national, regional and international issues, then the Tehran government would definitely extend a hand of friendship towards Riyadh."

The article concluded by saying, "the historical truth is that the West would never allow OPEC's most important players to join hands because of the simple reason that a coordinated Irano-Saudi policy in that organization will definitely be a serious blow to Washington."

**Turkey-EU Customs Union Called 'Annexation'**

*NC0301160596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[Unattributed commentary: "Realization of the Turkey-EU Customs Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tariffs on the exchange of commodities other than agricultural products between Turkey and the EU were lifted yesterday in accordance with the requirements of the customs union between the two sides. Joint tariffs will be imposed on the products of third countries. Yes, the obstacles to the exchange of commodities between Turkey and the EU were lifted yesterday.

It should be recalled that Turkey officially applied to join the Common Market in 1963. Its application was accepted 32 years later. The EU approved the realization of a customs union on 13 December 1995, that is only 10 days before the general elections were held in Turkey on 24 December. The matter has been described by political observers as important and interesting. Considering the efforts Turkey has made to join the EU for many years and the approval of its application only a short time before the general elections were held, they have said that the strengthening Islamic trend in Turkey and the strong possibility that the pro-Islamic Welfare Party [RP] might come to power after the elections prompted the EU to approve the customs union.

It is common knowledge that economic and political circles in Europe have drawn up several important programs for Turkey in the past. However, the outcome of the general elections indicated that the Turkish people do not favor the EU. On the contrary, they support the establishment of close relations with the Islamic countries and want to cooperate with the Islamic world. In fact, they voted for the RP to clearly show that they want to strengthen their Islamic identity.

The customs union will force Turkey to transfer most of its important national and legal rights to the EU. It will also transfer some of Turkey's rights to realize its own programs. The experts have described that state of affairs as Europe's annexation of Turkey. Pointing out that Turkey will not be a strong country in the EU, they have said that the customs union will have negative effects on Turkey's relations with the countries in the region. Naturally, the EU's annexation of Turkey will reduce its volume of trade with the Islamic countries in the region. According to the trade figures, Turkey's trade with the Islamic countries totals at least $12 billion at the present time. The loss it will incur in its trade with the Islamic countries will be greater than what it stands to gain from its trade with Europe. Furthermore, the

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EU will place Turkey under its control. Considering the cheap labor in that country, the EU will move to control the trade in the region.

Meanwhile, the transfer of the EU's advanced technology will change Turkey's economic structure. Naturally, this will undermine the small and medium-size technical establishments because they will be unable to either cooperate or compete with Europe's developed establishments. So they will collapse and their workers will lose their jobs.

Considering Turkey's political and economic situation, many economic experts believe that the customs union will obstruct Turkey's efforts to safeguard its national interests.

**Paper Lauds Victory of Welfare Party in Turkey**

*NC0201090796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Dec 95 p 15*

[Political commentary: "The Turkish People Vote Against the Secularites"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As predicted by most political observers, the Islamic Refah [Welfare] Party gained the most votes of the 12 major parties in the parliamentary elections in Turkey, which were held on Sunday [24 December], 10 months earlier than planned. [passage omitted]

From the very start, analysts who closely follow developments in Turkey knew that the role played by the people's religious beliefs would determine the outcome of the elections. They considered the Turkish public's support for the Refah Party to stem from its Islamic inclinations and the fact that the people are fed up with secularism and atheism in Turkey—a phenomenon Turkey's political and propaganda circles have been persistently propagating without taking the Turkish people and their religious beliefs into consideration.

It may be because of this that some political analysts fear a possible reaction by the military or promilitary statesmen vis-a-vis the Refah Party's victory and fear that what happened in the winter of 1991 after the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria—when the military regime resorted to a coup without taking the people's votes into consideration—will be repeated in Turkey.

The day before the elections, the Turkish chief of staff said at a military ceremony that the armed forces had accepted "nonreligious democratic principles" and that they would confront any type of religious fanaticism. Even before that, at least 50 Muslim officers had been expelled from the army on charges of following Islamic teachings.

Even though 98 percent of the 65-million strong population in Turkey is Muslim, since 1923 during the Ataturk era, that country has been run by a nonreligious and secular regimes and the Army has always been the guarantor of the continuation of this system.

When, in 1980, the Turkish military carried out a coup against the then government, one of their steps was to declare the Refah Party defunct and to throw its leaders into prison. But despite 72 years of propaganda by the secularites and despite military support for the secular system, this party has now won a plurality of votes in the parliamentary elections and has prepared the way for fundamental changes in the ruling structure of that country.

This victory of the Refah Party is the second major political victory for the Muslim Turkish people, after the party's victory in the municipal elections of 1994. And the votes cast for the Refah Party are definitely tantamount to votes in favor of Islam and Islamic values and teachings. This is an undeniable fact that should sound the death knell for all those in the Islamic land of Turkey who have pinned their hopes on the West and who, at a time when people's inclinations toward moral values are increasing, are engaged in a futile attempt to destroy the people's religious beliefs.

**Parliamentarian Rejects UN Resolution on Human Rights**

*LD0301065796 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA — The resolution issued by the Third Committee of the 50th U.N. General Assembly on the condition of human rights in Iran has been based on unfair and biased information that the committee obtained from Iran's enemies, a parliamentarian said.

In an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Wednesday, head of the Majlis Human Rights Committee, Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani called on the U.N. committee to conduct further investigation in this regard.

"Such allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran have been prompted by the hostile objectives of some frustrated opposition groups," he noted.

Stating that there are some misunderstandings regarding the condition of human rights in the country, he said, "the lack of sufficient facilities in some prisons has created unpleasant circumstances for some inmates: but the judiciary spares no effort to improve this situation." "These deficiencies do not mean that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran intentionally aims to

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disregard international regulations on human rights," Raja'i Khorasani stressed.

On Iran's stance toward future visits by U.N. representatives, he said Iran is ready to warmly welcome all U.N. representatives who intend to probe human rights and expressed hope that they will reflect the realities.

**Press Assails 'Narrow-Minded Bickering' in Gulf**

*LD1812115895 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 18 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — As the world's most energy-rich region, the Persian Gulf area has been the focus of global attention in the last several decades, a morning daily wrote in its editorial. Throughout the cold war era, in order to pressure the west, the former Soviet Union used Iraq as its proxy to influence regional events, the English-language daily IRAN NEWS added. To create another front against the west, Moscow instigated the Dhofar conflict involving Oman and former South Yemen in a long and protracted war which the Kremlin hoped would provide it with an opening to the conservative regional countries allied with the west, it said. The Soviet strategy failed due to the extraordinary importance the west attached to the huge oil reserves in this area, it stressed adding, but despite the relative regional stability in the 60s and 70s, the abundance of the incoming petrodollars, and the existence of a skilled workforce, the region is yet to reach an acceptable level of development.

"It is lamentable that despite the fact that the Persian Gulf countries were in a unique position to realize their economic, social and political potentials, a large portion of their wealth was destroyed in two regional wars in the 80s and early 90s," the article noted. It stated that during the same period, southeast Asian nations freed themselves from the shackles of political and ideological confrontation and marched towards a constructive and logical integration and coopertion.

The daily regretted that the countries of our region are still involved in narrow-minded bickering and creating imaginary enemies for themselves. "Some local rulers, who are insecure and lack the legitimacy needed for governing their own people, depend totally on forces from outside the region to guarantee their survival and create peace and stability in the Persian Gulf," it commented.

While in other parts of the world nations are building their futures based on regional integration, dependence on foreign forces is by far the worst way for bringing security to the Persian Gulf, specially now that U.S.-Europe rivalries are talking on new global dimensions, IRAN NEWS concluded.

**Jannati Says Hezbollah Safeguards Islamic Values**

*NC2912124195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Dec 95 pp 1, 14*

[TEHRAN TIMES Service report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati says that he supports for any movement which is to safeguard the Islamic values and that he has no connection with any of the existing groups or associations.

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, the Member of the Guardian Council described Ansar-e Hezbollah as a group of revolutionary youth who defend revolution, law and Velayat-e Faqih (the Leadership) in practice.

They devote their life to disseminate what is good and prevent what is evil, Ayatollah Jannati said, adding that the group members have no administrative' responsibility, yet, they actively take part in Islamic activities.

Although Ansar-e Hezbollah have no legal duty for doing so, like other social strata they are committed to safeguard the Islamic and revolutionary values.

While dismissing any links with the group, Ayatollah Jannati expressed his support for any pure movement aiming to safeguard the Islamic values and ideals.

He said that what Ansar-e Hezbollah does is only giving verbal notifications within the legal framework and that they respect the law. Meanwhile, he called for certain mechanism in a bid to prevent the overlap of Hezbollah activities with the executive organs in the country.

Every responsible citizen should try to safeguard Islamic and revolutionary values otherwise the nation would turn into an indifferent society.

He further denounced the deceitful propaganda campaign launched by the global arrogance, the Zionist regime and certain mass media against Hezbollah forces inside the country.

**Paper Challenges Baraq Remarks on Nuclear Policy**

*LD3112110995 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 31 (IRNA) — Iran is strong enough to defend itself against any Israeli adventurism, and it is the Arabs who would be the first victims of any Israeli aggression, a morning daily wrote in its editorial Sunday.

Commenting on Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's claims concerning the Zionist regime's nuclear policy as well as Iran's nuclear capability, the English-language

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TEHRAN TIMES stressed that he made the remark in order to divert the attention of international rules and regulations."

It stated that having more than 200 nuclear warheads in its nuclear arsenal, Tel Aviv has never allowed any inspector from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear installations.

"Unfortunately, the U.N., hijacked by the U.S. and Zionist circles since the collapse of the bipolar world order, has been reduced to an agent of the United States and influential Zionists. that is why this world body is turning a blind eye to such bare violations under the U.S. bullying," the TEHRAN TIMES added.

Regretting the impotency of the U.N., the editorial said, "those who have been deceived into believing that Israel is seeking peace should realize that Israel is not interested in peace at all."

Noting the present balance of power which is down on the Israeli side, it concluded that the Arab countries are required to reassess their attitude towards the Zionist regime.

**Slovak Envoy on Interest in Expanding Ties**

*LD0201125996 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — Slovak charge d'affaires to Tehran, Pavel Ivan said here on Monday [1 January] that his country is keen on expanding relations with Iran.

Speaking to IRNA on the occasion of the third anniversary of his country's independence, Ivan said Iran was one of the non-European countries which recognized the independence of Slovak Republic and that Bratislava regard Tehran as one of its important economic partners.

The Slovak charge d'affaires said during a visit paid by the Slovak minister of the economy, Jan Ducky last October, important agreements were signed by him and Iranian officials and it is expected that the volume of the trade exchanges between the two countries would increase as many as three or four times once the agreements are implemented.

On the trend of Tehran-Bratislava trade relations, Ivan said the first joint economic commission was held in Tehran in October 1995 on the basis of which the two countries are to cooperate in areas of industry, transport, machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineering, textile, steel, oil and gas and heavy industry.

The diplomat said Slovakia is willing to purchase oil and gas from the Islamic Republic and the two countries are expected to cooperate in this regard.

Ivan said the two countries have reached agreement on partnership of Slovak companies in setting up pipelines between Iran and other regional countries to carry Iranian gas.

He said the Slovak companies had acquired a lot of experience in laying pipelines to carry oil and gas from in the former Soviet Union.

**Majles Official on Use of Caspian Sea Resources**

*LD0201085496 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — Utilization of the Caspian Sea resources is subject to the agreement of all regional states, Majles Deputy Mohsen Yahyavi told the English daily 'IRAN NEWS'.

In an interview printed Tuesday, Yahyavi, deputy chairman of the Majles oil commission, stressed that the littoral states should speed up drawing the Caspian Sea legal regime to determine each country's share of its resources, including Azerbaijan.

Iran was not fully utilizing its due share of the sea's resources, he said emphasizing that after the legal regime has been worked out, coastal countries would have the right to demand what rightly belongs to them from countries which previously made use of these riches.

In a meeting of parliamentarians of the five littoral states in Dagestan, Baku practically opposed the legal regime's formulation.

**Qatari Envoy, Habibi Emphasize Increase in Relations**

*LD0101183296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with First Vice-President, the new ambassador of Qatar stressed that Qatar continues to emphasize the need for continued and expanded fraternal relations.

Mr. 'Ali Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kawari [as heard], emphasized his country's resolve to increase relations with Iran. He added that Qatar believes that its relations with Iran could be looked upon as a special and exemplary model of regional cooperation.

Mr. Habibi, on his part, said he was glad about the prospects of increased relations between the two countries. He added: The region's problems should be resolved only by the countries of the region, and foreign countries — with their unjustified presence in the region — undermine tranquillity and understanding among the peoples of the region.

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**Official, Mexican Envoy Discuss Cooperation**

*LD0101162996 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — Prospects of Iran-Mexico cooperation in the fields of electricity and water supply were discussed on Monday [1 January] in a meeting between Mexican ambassador to Tehran and Iranian deputy energy minister.

In the meeting, the Iranian official, B. Ghasemi, referring to Iran's projects of building dams and power plants, voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with Mexico in this regard while preserving bilateral friendly ties.

Meanwhile, the Mexican ambassador, Fernando Jose Escamilla Marquez, said his country was interested in cooperating with Iran in technical and industrial projects.

The two sides also explored fresh avenues to become further aquainted with each others' potentials in the field of water supply and electricity industries.

**'Researcher' on Tendency Toward Economic Blocs**

*LD0401100096 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA — The international system is moving towards the formation of a multipolar structure of regional economic blocs, an Iranian researcher at London University said.

In an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Thursday [4 January], on fringes of the Sixth International Seminar on the Persian Gulf and the Changing Structure of the International Systm, Pirouz Mojtahedzadeh cited the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as examples of regional economic alliances over which the U.S. today wants to dominate exclusively.

"The U.S. policy in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf region is to limit the scope of action of the regional countries, not by integration, but by resorting to military presence and power showoff," he stressed.

On the effect of recent changes brought about by the emerging world order on the strategic region of the Persian Gulf, he said the changes occurred since the 1990 have induced dramatic alterations in security concept of the Persian Gulf countries.

"The security concerns in the region have shifted from foreign threats via the Strait of Hormuz to internal threats stemming from increased territorial tension," he said.

Pointing to the increased U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, he reiterated that the goal obviously is to overstock small regional countries with unnecessary weapons.

Citing statistics to compare defense expenditure of regional countries, Mojtahedzadeh said, "Iran allocated 4.2 percent of its gross national product (GNP) for defense in 1993, Oman 15.3 percent, Saudi Arabia 13.1 percent, Kuwait 12 percent and the United Arab Emirates 10 percent of their GNPs."

He further underlined that the U.S. military presence in the region does not safeguard its security, but it is a factor which can undermine regional security by destabilizing the balance of power.

"Inviting extra-regional countries to join the security system of the region will further complicate the politics of the region because the countries which have been omitted from this security arrangement consider the situation against their interest," the expert stressed adding, that's why the so-called 6"2 [as received] security arrangement for the Persian Gulf region has yielded no fruit.

Lauding the security system proposed by Islamic Iran as the best solution for the region, he stated the system would work to the benefit of all the regional countries.

"The changing international system has brought a pseudo-self confidence among certain regional countries," he said. The new self-confidence has manifested itself in the renewed clashes and territorial claims which are offshoots of efforts to change the territorial structure which, bolstered by the U.S. military presence in the region, constitutes the main factor leading to insecurity in the region.

Commenting on the UAE claim on the three Iranian islands, Mojtahedzadeh noted that the claim is another problem caused by the pseudo-self-confidence among the southern littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

"What is obvious today is that the UAE claim is not based on a geographical misunderstanding but is more of a political provocation by foreign countries," TEHRAN TIMES quoted him as saying.

**Governor on Trade Agreements Signed With Kuwait**

*LD0101162596 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Jan. 1, IRNA — Deputy governor-general of this southern province, Hasan Momtahen said here on Monday [1 January] that eight agreements have been signed between

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this Iranian province and Kuwait on trade and investment.

Momtahen told a news conference that the volume of the agreements dealing with business and investment of Kuwaiti businessmen in the Iranian province amounted to dlrs. 600 million. He said setting up a permanent exhibit of Fars Province in Kuwait, Kuwait's partnership in opening a medical service institute in Shiraz, partnership of Fars Province in Kuwaiti tenders on oil and petrochemical industry were included the agreement.

Momtahen said Kuwaiti businessmen are interested in setting up an airlines company and a hotel near Shiraz Airport as well as building a tourist village in Shiraz and opening a chain-store in the province.

**Defense Minister: Tehran Spends Least on Arms**

*LD0101082496 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — According to Defense Minister Mohammad Foruzandeh, Iran spends the least on arms purchases in the Persian Gulf region.

In an interview with the latest issue of bilingual weekly 'KEYHAN-E HAVA'I', he said that the total budget expected to be allocated for the next year (March 21, 1996 - March 20, 1997) defense will be rls. [rials] 5,800 billion.

"We purchase very few arms from abroad," he stated adding, about 80 percent of our total budget goes to general spending and only the remaining 20 percent is devoted to purchase of arms, about dlrs. [dollars] 400 million, annually.

On spending billions of dollars on arms purchases by some Arab states, Foruzandeh said, "this is because the Americans want the petrodollars of these countries and at the same time keep the atmosphere tense in this strategic region."

On Iran's military capability to face a foreign threat, he noted, "Iran now enjoys excellent military preparedness to cope with any unforeseen situation.

The minister stressed that in the case of a foreign threat, the whole country would be mobilized in a short period.

On Iran's military links with foreign countries, he said, "Iran enjoys good military relations with friendly countries. We are now selling weapons to 14 countries."

Criticizing presence of Western, mostly American military forces in the Persian Gulf, Foruzandeh said the Persian Gulf region belongs to the countries of this region and they themselves are responsible for its security.

As for Iran's military dependence, the defense minister reiterated that the Islamic Republic has, from the very beginning, followed a policy of self-sufficiency and independence.

"Of course we meet some of our requirements from abroad, but we are not dependent on any particular foreign country," he concluded.

**New Chinese Ambassador Meets With Velayati**

*LD3112212495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [31 December] the new Chinese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran presented his credentials to our country's foreign minister and stressed that relations between the two countries have deep and strong roots which will not be effected by any impeding factors. Noting the shared features between Iran and China, he said: For a long time now, world imperialism have subjected both countries to their merciless aggressions. He also called for the expansion of ties between the two countries in various political, cultural, and economic fields.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, referred to China's principled stances on bilateral ties, the third world and the non-aligned countries, and stressed the importance of continuing cooperation between the two countries. He expressed gratitude for China's stance on the issue of the observance of human rights in Iran.

**Received by President**

*LD0401113896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Wang Shiji, the new ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Iran, today met President Hashemi- Rafsanjani and submitted his credentials.

In this meeting, the Chinese ambassador conveyed the warm greetings of the Chinese president and prime minister, Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, to the government and nation of Iran.

He said: Iran, which has an ancient civilization and history and has played an important role in creating and nurturing the illustrious Persian culture and human civilization, is immensely respected by China and considered as an important regional friend.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, termed China as one of Iran's best friends in the region. He said: Iran does not envisage any obstacle on the path of bolstering its relations with China, and we welcome the deepening of bilateral ties in all fields.

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The president then referred to the shared positions of Iran and China regarding many international and regional issues. He said: These shared views, as well as the existing understanding between the officials of the two friendly countries, can be considered as a great asset for the process of deepening the ties between the two countries.

**Envoy Denies Germans Seek Arrest of Musavian**

*LD3112145995 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Bonn, Hoseyn Musavian on Sunday refuted an allegation raised by German weekly, FOCUS that the German federal prosecutor has issued an arrest warrant for Iranian Minister of Information, 'Ali Fallahian.

In an interview with IRNA, Musavian said no arrest warrant has been issued for Fallahian by German federal prosecutor and no German judicial or political official has made any statement in this regard.

The German weekly had claimed that German federal prosecutor was investigating the possibility of Fallahian having ordered the shoot- out incident at Mykonos restaurant in Berlin in 1992. Certain segment of mass media linked with the Zionist circles has taken advantage of the FOCUS report to launch an anti-Iran propaganda campaign.

Musavian reiterated that Iran had not been involved in the shoot- out in Berlin restaurant and the findings of the Karlsruhe court now investigating the incident would support this idea.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has requested German political and judicial officials to examine the lawsuit impartially and free from foreign influence, he said.

The Iranian ambassador to Bonn said the claim of Iran's involvement in the Mykonos restaurant incident has been raised by the Zionist circles and that those wishing to hamper the proper investigation of the lawsuit at Karlsruhe court would be disgraced at the end of the proceedings.

On the background of the lawsuit, Musavian said the German federal prosecutor general has claimed that IRAN was involved in the 1992 incident at Mykonos restaurant and ever since a Berlin court and the prosecutor general's office have been investigating the issue which is not something new.

**Khamene'i Reappoints National Security Representatives**

*LD0301182496 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah ['Ali] Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, has issued separate edicts appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Rowhani [current Deputy Majles Speaker] and Dr. 'Ali Larijani as his representatives to the Supreme Council for National Security [SCNS] for a period of two years.

The text of the eminent leader's edict addressed to Hojjat ol- Eslam 'Ali Rowhani is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Rowhani. In implementing Article 176 of the Constitution, I am re-appointing your excellency as my representative to the SCNS for a period of two years. Taking into account the prominent and distinguished role which that council's decisions have played in the fulfillment of the national independence and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the expectation is that you may be able to contribute to the strength and independence of the exalted Islamic system, through your active participation in the council and exchanges of view with myself. May God grant you success. Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The text of the eminent leader's edict addressed to Dr. 'Ali Larijani is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Dr. 'Ali Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision [Organization of the Islamic Republic]. In implementing Article 176 of the Constitution, I am appointing your excellency as my representative to the SCNS for a period of two years. [passage omitted]

**Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri Praises Role of IRGC**

*LD0101155396 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri inspected the exhibition of technical and engineering achievements of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) here on Monday [1 January].

At the end of his three-hour inspection tour, the speaker said in the aftermath of the imposed war the IRGC as the strong arm of the government played its part in the country's reconstruction effort.

Nateq-Nuri described the activities of the IRGC throughout the years of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the imposed war and suppression of armed

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groups as miracle and noted that the IRGC has taken great strides in the country's reconstruction effort and development plans.

The speaker pointed out that the IRGC during the imposed war employed all its potentials in defending the country, and that today it has undertaken grave responsibilities in implementing huge development and infrastructural projects.

He said in the forthcoming parliamentary elections indifferent people whose heart "do not beat for the revolution" should not be able to find their ways into the Majles.

The first exhibition of the technical and engineering achievements of the IRGC opened in Tehran last Sunday. The speaker was accompanied by the IRGC commander Major General Mohsen Reza'i and high-ranking military commanders, commerce minister and a number of Majles deputies.

**Bushehr Naval Commander Interviewed on Activities**

*NC0401105596 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Dec 95 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second naval area of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] in Bushehr province has an active and steadfast presence in line with the armed forces and the brave basijis of the province throughout the blue waters of the Persian Gulf.

Second Commodore Hoseyn Kargar, senior commander of the IRGC and the commander of the second naval area of the IRGC in Bushehr, who was speaking to our correspondent on the occasion of IRGC week, added: Since the outset of the revolution and especially during the eight years of sacred defense and with participation in the reconstruction of the country, the IRGC and basiji forces have obeyed the decrees of Imam Khomyeni, the great leader of the revolution, and his worthy successor Ayatollah Khamene'i and have always had an active presence on the scene of the battle of good against evil and have defended the gains of the glorious Islamic Revolution. [passage omitted]

Referring to the preservation of the combat readiness of the IRGC forces, he said: Since the beginning of this [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1995], eight training and readiness exercises have been carried out in the Persian Gulf, some of which were jointly and successfully carried out with the brave brothers in the Islamic Republic's navy and with the able pilots of the 6th Fighter Base. Currently the Ra'd [Lightning] naval and missile maneuvers are taking place in the Persian Gulf waters on the occasion of IRGC week.

Hoseyn Kargar said that the illegitimate presence of foreigners in this sensitive and strategic waterway harms regional stability and security and added: Those who have embarked on a military expedition on the pretext of ensuring security are actually pursuing their illegitimate interests in the Persian Gulf and they should know that the nations in this region are very well aware of their ploys and consider this presence to be harmful to regional security and tranquility.

He added: As stated by the respected officials of the Islamic Republic on many occasions, true security can be achieved only by the regional nations and governments; and what we are doing today is preserving our readiness to defend our Islamic homeland's borders.

Therefore, the active presence of the Islamic Republic's combatants throughout the blue waters of the Persian Gulf is needed only in order to confront encroachments by the enemies of Islam and to safeguard our country's borders and is no threat to anyone else.

Hoseyn Kargar added: In order to maintain the readiness of the regions forces, we will carry out regional exercises in the Persian Gulf every three months, and by the end of the current [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1996] we will also hold the Kowsar exercises for divers.

He added that measures have been taken for the basiji forces of the province to be able to jointly participate with the IRGC forces in naval maneuvers.

Second Commodore Hoseyn Kargar then went on to discuss the importance of education and organization in the armed forces. [passage omitted]

**Defense Minister Calls For Logistics Reform**

*LD0301114096 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 3 (IRNA) — Minister of Defense and Logistics, Mohammad Foruzandeh, called for a reform in management of logistics and its application in the armed forces, compatible with the international standards and modern technology.

Speaking on the second day of the seminar on logistics science and their application, he added that the key to the success of the armed forces the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in particular, during the 1980-88 imposed war was reliance on human resources.

The seminar which opened at Tehran's Imam Hoseyn University on Tuesday is to wind up work today.

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**Election Official Says Votes Should Be Respected**

*LD3012211795 Tehran IRNA in English*
*2048 GMT 30 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yasuj (Kohkilouyeh-Boyer Ahmad Prov.), Dec. 30, IRNA — Head of the headquarters for supervising the forthcoming parliamentary polls, Hassan Ganji, said here on Saturday [30 December] that votes of the people for the candidates of their choice should be respected.

Addressing a meeting of electoral teams for the 5th parliamentary polls scheduled for March 1996, he asked them to stay clear of political groupings.

He said the registration of candidates would take place between January 30 and February 5, and the election campaign would be held February 29-March 6.

The casting of ballots by the public nationwide is to be held on March 8, concluded Ganji.

**Official Stresses Importance of 'Sound' Reporting**

*LD0201152396 Tehran IRNA in English*
*1512 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — A prominent Iranian cleric on Tuesday urged reporters not to disseminate information without making a sound and expert assessment in advance.

The remark was made by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammad Reyshahri, the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and head of the Iranian Hajj pilgrims, who paid a visit to the head office of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), here today.

In a meeting with directors and editors of the news agency, Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri said news disseminated by IRNA, especially those being of high importance, should be precise.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri stressed the necessity to avoid disseminating reports which have not been evaluated in conformity with specific standards.

He pointed out that incorporation of personal and group likings and dislikings in the news items is another plague of news reporting.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri pointed out that the criteria for dissemination of information in the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on conveying the truths, a criteria which stems from velayat-e faqih (guardianship of the supreme Muslim jurisprudent).

Stressing that reporters should remain impartial in reporting, he said they should convey the realities without being influenced by their own tastes or tendencies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri underlined the significance of the Islamic Republic News Agency as an important organ in the dissemination of information in the country whose independence should be preserved.

Meanwhile, IRNA managing director Fereydoun Verdinejad reported on the specifications of the professional job and technical capabilities of the agency in covering domestic, regional and international developments.

**Ayatollah Qomi Says Majles Should Tackle Economy**

*LD3012185595 Tehran IRNA in English*
*1836 GMT 30 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Holy Qom, Dec. 30, IRNA — Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi said here on Saturday [30 December] that after the elections in March 1996 the new parliament should work on economic reforms for improving the situation of the country.

Speaking with the special IRNA team on the eve of the polls for the fifth four-year term of the 270-seat Majles, the ayatollah said the candidates should be capable of tackling the economic situation in the country.

"In my view, members of the fifth parliament should practically commit themselves to the principle of Velayat-e Faqih (rule of the supreme jurist) as their important duty, and work hard to remove the economic difficulties especially the growing inflation," he said.

Ayatollah Azari Qomi who is a member of the Teachers' Association of the Qom Theological Center, said the current members of parliament did not do enough to tackle the economic problems in the society.

Ayatollah Azari Qomi who served as a deputy during the second term of the parliament (1984-88), was rather critical of the functioning of the current Majles.

He said that one of the problems with the fourth Majles is the uniformity of ideas among the MPs and because of this grounds have been lacking for emergence of different ideas which in turn have not yielded any desirable results for solving of problems.

Elaborating, Ayatollah Qomi Azari said that insufficient efforts to bring about social justice and failure to harness inflation and cash liquidity, have been the main weak point of the fourth Majles.

In the meantime, he said, participation of different groups in the parliamentary polls would serve to create a lively atmosphere adding to the popularity of the elections.

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**Daily Calls For Measures To Adjust Goods Prices**

*LD0401095496 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA — The English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Thursday [4 January] called for measures to provide consumer goods at reasonable prices.

The editorial said certain essential commodities, especially potatoes and eggs, have lately become out of bounds for the common people or their prices are very high.

Criticizing the statement by Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari that the price hike is artificial and that it is the result of slow and untimely supply by farmers, the paper wrote, "passing on the buck to our farmers who are the backbone of the economy, will not help resolve the potato crisis."

According to KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL the Agriculture Ministry is duty-bound to help farmers rectify their problems. "Farm cooperatives should come to the farmers's rescue by purchasing their produce at remunerative prices, so as to prevent profiteers from preemption of potato sales and making them available to consumers at reasonable rates."

The editoriaal concluded by saying, "the same holds for all other basic food products."

**Official on Decrease in Need for Industrial Imports**

*LD0301160996 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 3 (IRNA) — Majles Deputy Seyyed Hoseyn Hashemi has said that investments in the industries sector have been so fruitful that a great deal of industrial goods are currently produced at home.

Talking exclusively to the English language daily IRAN NEWS, he said that prior to the revolution many commodities were imported, whereas these goods are now manufactured inside Iran.

He said at the time, Iran's industrial imports stood at more than 24 billion dollars, while the country's population was 36 million.

The Majles deputy from Miyaneh, East Azerbaijan Province, said right now, with a population of about 65 million, such imports amount to less than 10 billion dollars.

Hoseyn Hashemi further said that Iran currently exports industrial spare parts, machinery, steel and auto-spare parts to Western Europe.

The MP added that Iran has reached self-sufficiency in the building industries and manufactures tractors, combine harvesters, sowing utensils, pressurized irrigation machinery, and equipment and machinery needed in the water industry.

Hoseyn Hashemi stressed that as agriculture is the pivot of Iran's economy in the second plan, special account has been given to developing the related industries.

Hashemi, who chairs the Majles Commission of Industries and Mines, referred to Iran's great progress and achievements in recent years, especially after the Iraqi-imposed war, in the steel, cement, telecommunications, metal and non-metal mines, water and foodstuff industries.

He said about 22.684 billion rials have been allocated to the country's development in the budget for 21 March 1996 to 21 March 1997, showing a 53 percent increase as compared with the previous year.

Hashemi went on to say that 281 billion rials has been earmarked the next year for metal melting, showing a 69 percent increase as compared with 107 billion rials the previous year.

He noted that this growth is due to the achievements made by Yazd's Alloy Steel and Esfarayen's Casting Plants.

These strategic projects are included in the public budget, while many industrial projects implemented by state-owned or private companies not included in the state budget comprise a large volume of the country's industrial production, Hashemi elaborated.

He mentioned for example the manufacture of automobile spare parts at a value of 2.8 billion rials through contracts drawn up with private sector workshops and small industries.

Hashemi referred to the Al-Mahdi Aluminum project, which will enable the annual production of 110,000 tons of aluminum, the annual production of 600,000 tons of sponge iron in Isfahan's Steel Mill, and the annual 10,000 ton increase in production volume of Kerman's Sarcheshmeh Copper Plant.

He noted that the steel mills of Azarbaijan, Khorasan, Isfahan, and Ahwaz are to be developed, increasing the country's steel production volume.

Hashemi said that projects to increase the volume of steel production at home will bring the production level to 10 million tons per year, adding that the 1996 budget allocates 166 billion rials to the mines sector, indicating an 11.5 percent increase as compared to the 149.74 billion rials the previous year.

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The government will implement important and strategic projects with the state budget such as equipping the Chador Mulou Mine with 39 billion rials, exploiting the Jajron Bauxite Mine with 45 million rials, and several other mines all of which are specified in the next year budget, the MP said.

He concluded that the private sector is also conducting numerous important projects that are not accounted for by the state budget.

**Speaker Calls For Investment in Livestock Industries**

*LD0301144496 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Wednesday [3 January] underlined the need for making investments in processing and packing industries in the neighborhood of livestock breeding farms.

Nateq-Nuri, speaking at the one-day seminar on livestock sciences in Iran, said setting up of processing and packing industries would not only lead the country towards self-sufficiency but would also gain remarkable amount of hard currency.

Under the present circumstances when military wars have given way to trade wars and competitions, he said, agricultural products and foodstuff are the most effective weapons to combat against those powers who are attempting to impose pressure on the developing nations.

Some 75 percent of the world's agricultural products are currently produced by the developed nations where only 25 percent of the world population are living and vice versa.

The seminar, attended by livestock specialists in Iran, ended its work at Tehran Azadi sports complex on Wednesday afternoon.

**Paper Criticizes Price Rises, 'Economic Terrorists'**

*LD0201084396 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 2 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA — The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Tuesday [2 January] editorialized on the recent sharp rise in price of several consumer goods and said the guidelines of the president in decisively encountering profiteers should be forcefully implemented.

The paper did not rule out the likelihood of a conspiracy. "It seems hidden hands are at work to create an air of discontent in the society on the eve of the Majles elections and prevent massive participation of the electorates."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said what is needed under these circumstances is "a firm and indiscriminate action against economic terrorists and their accomplices."

According to the editorial, an inflation rate of 20-100 percent in case of certain basic consumer goods such as butter, potato, egg and chicken has been registered. This is not something that can be easily overlooked. The paper proposed that basic goods should be made available to the public through cooperatives at lower prices adding that measures should be taken against those cooperatives which in certain cases are responsible for price rises. The officials should take notice of realities and through concrete measures ease the burden of the consumers, concluded the editorial.

**Tehran Air Pollution Worsens; Health Advisory Issued**

*LD0101173396 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1330 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past two days the air in Tehran has reached its highest level of pollution and experts have advised various groups of people particularly children and old people not to travel in the city's centers.

The air in Tehran has reached its highest level of pollution and gone beyond permissible levels despite slight air movements and winds.

The recent increase in pollution has been due to the immobile and static nature of the air and experts say pollution level will rise daily, especially in closed urban spaces and houses in particular.

The main sources of the pollution are defective heat producing equipment, cigarette smoke, and glue and spray production.

The intensity of the recent pollution has been worse in the early hours of the morning when polluted air hangs over the city like an umbrella.

Doctors have strictly banned old people and children from travelling in the main city centers.

An expert working for the Organization for the Protection of Environment has said:

[Begin unidentified official recording] A step taken to limit Tehran's air pollution was to restrict the traffic of motor vehicles, in particular in the city's centers. But this restriction must be implemented properly. If we allow the polluting vehicles to travel in the city, particularly on days such as this when there is no air

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movement and pollution is high, pollution will increase and it will be impossible to control. [end recording]

**Water Supplies Threatened by 'Improper' Use**

*LD0101164696 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Continued incorrect use of the country's water resources and improper exploitation of underground water reserves will result in farmers facing water shortages in the coming years.

Mr. Nabavi, director general of the Bureau for Preservation and Exploitation of underground water resources, has announced: Due to improper use of underground water reserves, more than 140 of the country's important and fertile plains have been included in the banned list and no new exploitation on those plains is permitted.

Stressing the necessity for investments to collect and preserve water resources, Mr. Nabavi stressed the necessity for refraining from unauthorized use of vegetable toxins and agricultural contaminants.

## Pakistan

**Bhutto Adviser: Islamabad-Dhaka Ties 'Excellent'**

*BK3012131195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Dec 95 p 10*

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has reduced the budget deficit from 8 percent to 46 in the current fiscal year by restricting money expansion, which has been brought down to a level of 16 to 17 percent.

In an interview with Weekly Economic Times of Dhaka, carried in its mid-December 1995 issue, VA Jafarey, adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said Pakistan's economy has been deregulated and controls on prices, power sector, road construction and communications have been removed. He said more and more areas have been opened up for foreign private investments. In this regard, he mentioned those MoUs [Memorandum of Understanding] signed in the recent past.

Jafarey said the government has taken a number of steps to achieve macro-economic stability by trying to keep monetary expansion under restraint. Though, he admitted that all the economic targets have not been achieved but even then monetary expansion has been brought down to 16 to 17 from 20 to 23 percent.

He supported privatisation of public sector enterprises, greater deregulation, and increase in foreign direct investment as well as portfolio investment. He said at present there is no control to set up industries in the private sector.

Jafarey emphasised Social Action Plan envisaging village education, family planning, and health care system. He said both the World Bank and IMF are helpful to develop the economies of the developing countries. Replying to a question on whether regional grouping can help its members and protect their interest, the Advisor said Pakistan believes in regional cooperation. He stressed the need for regional cooperation for development of trade, business, and investment in the region.

Pleading socio-economic reforms in countries in the region, he said it was necessary to take measures for improving the condition of women by protecting them and allowing them access to bank credits.

Referring to Pak-BD [Bangladesh] relations, the Advisor to PM described it as excellent and maintained there is ample scope for cooperation in economy, which also is the need of the two countries.

He said with the signing of SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement] the opportunities of increasing trade and economic relations will be opened up.

Private level contacts have already been established and volume of trade turnover substantially increased. He said that the decision taken at the 5th session of Joint Economic Mission held in Islamabad in July last has paved the way to increase bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

**Asif Ali Explains Policy to Afghanistan, India**

*BK3112105095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 31 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan is based on noninterference, unity of Afghanistan, its neutrality toward all neighbors, and establishment of peace based on these principles. In an interview, he said the prime responsibility of bringing peace there rests on Kabul regime.

He regretted that an Afghan was involved in the bomb blast in Peshawar. However, he said the expulsion of Afghan consul general from Peshawar is not linked with the blast.

He criticized India's planned nuclear test, saying it will alone bear the responsibility of the consequences. He said India is not solving the bilateral issues, which is creating negative impact on the role of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] in the region, and instead of working for peace, it has chosen a path of confrontation.

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About Kashmir, the foreign minister said Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India on issue under the Simla accord, but India is destroying the accord by not including Kashmir on the agenda.

**Spokesman Says Indian Agents Destabilizing Sindh**

*BK0401144396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign office spokesman has said India is trying to destabilize Pakistan by employing its intelligence agencies in Sindh where a number of Indian agents have been caught red handed. The spokesman was commenting on the allegations made by the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, describing Pakistan as a terrorist state out to destabilize India.

The spokesman said if any state today deserved the appelage of terrorist state, it is India. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, the spokesman quashed the Indian allegations and said Mr. Bhatia should remember that it is India which has used its military across international frontiers repeatedly since 1947. He said Indian armed forces have been used against almost all four neighbors and were instrumental in the dismemberment of Pakistan. The spokesman said Indian forces continue to illegally occupy Jammu and Kashmir and remain engaged in repression and human rights violations which have been documented by responsible international human tights agencies.

**New Afghan Consul General Appointed in Peshawar**

*BK3012120295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Dec 95 p 1,13*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — The Afghan government has appointed Etehad-e Eslami's [Islamic Union] Syed Sulaiman Shah as its new Consul General in Peshawar after the expulsion of Musa Khan last week by the Pakistan government.

Both the diplomats Sulaiman Shah and Musa are said to have similar political affiliations. Both are graduated from Dehadoon Military College of India and are considered close to Prof. Rasul Sayyaf, the lone ally of President Rabbani and Afghan warlord Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

The Afghan government Wednesday finalised appointment of Sulaiman Shah as Peshawar-based Consul General. Interestingly, the Rabbani government has yet to appoint people against the vacant posts in Pakistan, fell vacant due to extradition of at least 17 diplomats but only filled the post of Musa Khan who was expelled from Pakistan just on December 24. Despite the extradition of Musa Khan, there is at least four seasoned and experienced diplomats in Peshawar but none of them are affiliated with either Jam'iyat-e-Eslami [Islamic Society] of Prof. Rabbani or Etehad-e Islami of Rasul Sayyaf.

On the other hand, Sulaiman Shah who was one of the two diplomats in Afghan embassy at Islamabad, was transferred to Peshawar as a new Consul General. While now only 'Abdol Wahab, the third secretary, will work as a lone diplomat in the embassy as acting Charge d'Affairs Mehrabud Din is possessing appointment letter of military attache. While in Peshawar Wali Naeemi is senior to Sulaiman Shah and has been working as Vice Consul General since April 1992. However, Wali Naeemi who is affiliated to National Islamic Front of Seyyed Ahmad Gilani is not favourable to both Prof. Rabbani and his right hand man Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Syed Sulaiman Shah belongs to Kunar province. He was sent to Deradoon Military College of India by late Afghan president Sardar Mohammad Da'ud Khan. In the meantime, situation in Afghanistan was changed and on completion of military education from India, Sulaiman Shah along with Musa Khan migrated to Pakistan and they joined Etehad-e Eslami of Prof. Rasul Sayyaf. During jehad, Sulaiman Shah had led the propaganda sections of Etehad-e Eslami's. In Pakistan, he learnt English language in private institutions of Peshawar. At the beginning of 1993, when Etehad-e Eslami's chief Pro. Rasul Sayyaf entered into an understanding with Prof. Rabbani and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Sulaiman Shah was named as first secretary first in Islamabad and later transferred to Peshawar. However, he was again transferred to Islamabad in 1994.

Wali Naeemi who is performing duties since 1992 is considered one of the experienced Afghan diplomats.

**MFN Status Not Seen Granting Favor to India**

*BK0301131796 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Dec 95 p 11*

[Report by M. Ziauddin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Dec 27 — Pakistan would not be according any special favor to India, when and if, Islamabad finally grants the Most Favored Nation [MFN] status to our southern neighbor which would be enjoying this status along with a crowd of 130 nations, all signatories of GATT agreement.

Sources said the MFN status does not automatically grant a nation free access to the markets of these 130 signatory nations. Neither does it mean that all these

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130 countries have joined in a global free market block. It only means that none of these 130 countries should be discriminated against in the matters of trade by the member countries.

In fact the World Trade Organization rules provide six safety valves for the members, using which domestic industries could still be protected from cheaper imports.

The safety valves are: Under certain circumstances rates of duties could be increased to render imports uneconomic compared to local products. Even if the import prices are fair, the local industry could be provided protection by invoking quota and quantity restriction rules. Anti-dumping laws could also be invoked. Countervailing duties could be imposed if evidence of subsidies is found in the import items. In case the importing country is facing Balance of Payments position problems, it can impose tariff and non-tariff restrictions against imports. In case the importing country is facing security risks, then too, it can impose restrictions.

But in order to invoke any or all these rules, the importing country will have to follow certain procedures for which one needs a lot of specialized expertise. Even the private sector members intending to take advantage of the WTO rules or to guard their industries against imports need to acquire this expertise to be able to prepare their petitions.

In the case of Pakistan, such expertise seems to be lacking both at the government, as well as at the private sector levels. Pakistan does not even have anti-dumping and countervailing laws.

In the past the need for such laws was not felt because we were importing mostly from developed West and Japan, all of whom, being generous aid donors, had held decisive clout to punish us by withholding the much needed aid, if we had stopped imports from these countries by invoking anti-dumping or countervailing rules.

However, now since 130 countries, many of whom being in the same economic category like Pakistan or India would be vying for our market, it has become a matter of urgency that we evolve the required protective trade laws.

At the official level, the inevitability of granting India the MFN status has seemingly finally sunk in. However, in order to be able to face the new trade challenges, which would not come from India alone, the officials are apparently trying to buy enough time for preparations.

Another challenge that looks the government straight in the face is the continued confusion in the minds of a part of officialdom that somehow the Kashmir cause would suffer if India is granted the MFN status.

Unless this confusion is sorted out at the official level and a unified position is taken, it would not be easy for the government to convince the nation at large that the MFN status does not accord India a special position vis-a-vis Islamabad's other 130 trading partners.

Also, the government needs to clarify to all interested parties that granting of MFN to India does not mean establishment of a free trade area between the two countries. This is a matter that is being pursued on the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] track.

### Saudi Ties Seen as Unaffected by Transfer of Power

*BK0301154096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will remain brotherly and friendly forever and will not be affected by political change in that country. He said in Islamabad today that King Fahd handing over state affairs to Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz is Saudi Arabia's internal affair. He added that Pakistan enjoys very cordial relations with Saudi Arabia and welcomes stability there.

King Fahd has handed over power to his younger brother while he recuperates.

### India Called on To Honor 'Agreed Words' on Siachen

*BK0501030696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The retiring chief of the Army staff, General Abdul Waheed, is busy making his farewell visits to the major Pakistan Army garrisons these days. In this connection, he visited Siachen the other day. There he had an opportunity to address a durbar [gathering] of the officers and men posted in the area that has been described as the highest spot in the world which has been the scene of military confrontation between two regular armies.

Although the occasion was a traditional military event, General Waheed availed himself of the opportunity to express his views on issues vital to the country's defense. Paying tribute to the devotion, courage, and fortitude of the Army personnel posted in Siachen and the total commitment to the defense of every inch of the sacred land of the country despite extremely hard

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weather conditions and difficulties often experienced in the maintenance of uninterrupted flow of essential supplies, the head of the Army stressed that the government is determined to provide every assistance to the armed forces to enable them to fulfill the responsibilities toward the country's defense.

The dispute over Siachen is in fact an offshoot of the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan. Without going into the various aspects of the broader question of Jammu and Kashmir, it is relevant to recall that India owes the responsibility of creating an ugly situation in Siachen by its blatant violation of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. It sneaked into the areas that fell on the Pakistani side of the Line of Control and later established its military posts there. Pakistan had to take steps to stop further Indian inroads into the sector and had to establish its own military presence there. There have been many a border clash between the Indian and Pakistani armies facing each other at close quarters in Siachen resulting in unnecessary loss of life.

Some years ago, India had shown some inclination to adopt along with Pakistan measures which came to be known as confidence-building measures. With Pakistan's persuasion and encouragement from other powers that were interested in easing of tension in the South Asian subcontinent, India had reportedly arrived at an agreement with Pakistan envisaging withdrawal of troops from Siachen area, but at the last minute India — true to its style — reneged on the proposed agreement and it fell through before seeing the light of the day. Since then India and Pakistan continue to be engaged in wasteful strife in Siachen. Although Kashmir remains the core outstanding issue between India and Pakistan without the settlement of which a durable peace cannot possibly be ensured in the South Asian region, yet Pakistan is not altogether averse to the idea of resolving minor differences with India.

Nothing can better generate a congenial atmosphere for the resolution of major differences, if the ground has been prepared by removing minor irritants. It was in this spirit that Pakistan had accepted to go along with an agreed arrangement over Siachen without reference to the wider overall issue of Jammu and Kashmir. It is, however, a pity that India has not yet picked up the courage to handle even a comparatively smaller issue such as that of Siachen. Be that as it may, General Waheed has done well to reiterate the resolve of Pakistan's armed forces which voiced the sentiments of the people of Pakistan not to compromise on the national sovereignty and the country's integrity. In the best interest of the world peace and regional stability, India could do well to give up its hegemonistic designs and make a useful beginning by honoring its own agreed words on Siachen.

### Army Chief Addresses Troops in Siachen

*BK0301041196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Army Chief Abdul Waheed addressed a gathering of troops in the forward areas of Siachen yesterday. Lauding the sacrifices of the troops stationed at the world's highest battlefield of Siachen, he said this reflects Pakistani Army's resolve that no odds could deter them from fulfilling their national defense obligations. General Abdul Waheed said the government is making all efforts to equip the Army with all possible defense materiel.

### 'Political, Diplomatic' Support for Kashmir Reported

*BK0301083496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has reaffirmed its political, diplomatic and moral support to the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Replying to a question on behalf of the foreign minister in the Senate this morning, the law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, stated that implementation of the UN resolutions is the only solution of the Kashmir problem and the present government is mobilizing international public opinion to achieve this objective.

He said UN as well as Pakistan and Kashmiri people have been keen on resolving this issue, but India has adopted an obstructionist posture. He said in view of India's intrasigence, Pakistan has made concerted efforts to mobilize international pressure against India for implementation of the relavant UN resolutions.

### Bhutto Invites Opposition for Talks on Issues

*BK0401163596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the government wants to enter into dialogue with the Opposition in sincerity to forge a consensus on issues of national importance. Talking to a Pakistan People's party delegation from Naushahro Firoz District in Larkana today, she said we desire to settle national issues with the cooperation of the Opposition and our doors are open for such a dialogue.

About the situation in Karachi, the prime minister said the situation in the city had deteriorated considerably during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif. However, she said that her government had been able to arrest many

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terrorists in Karachi and the remaining ones would also be apprehended. She said that Karachi is the heart of Pakistan and we will not rest till complete peace is restored there. The prime minister expressed her gratitude to the peace- loving people of Karachi for their efforts to improve the law and order situation in the city. She reiterated that the government would welcome talks with all parties to settle the Karachi issue. She said it was the Altaf Group that had created the impasse and suspended talks with the government.

**'Partial' Strike Observed in Karachi, Hyderabad**

*BK0401152896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A partial strike was observed in Karachi today on an appeal given by the Altaf Group. Public transport, including coaches, buses, minibuses, rickshaws, and taxis, plied on the roads, but their number was thin. However, private vehicles, including cars, motorcycles, and scooters were plying in sizeable number expect in districts Central and West.

Partial strike was also observed in Hyderabad today. The overall law and order situation remained under control and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the city.

According to a press note issued in Karachi this evening, one person was injured in shooting by three members of the Altaf Group in Nabibaksh police station area. Unidenitified miscreants set on fire three vehicles in District Central.

**Dehlvi Says MQM Not Thinking of 'Breaking' Country**

*BK3012151595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Dec 95 p 14*

[Report by THE NATION correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — MQM(A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement - Altaf] Chief negotiator Ajmal Dehlvi has said Muhajirs can never think of breaking Pakistan and would rather smash the heads of those who have such nefarious designs.

"We can even opt for terrorism to foil all conspiracies against our country," Ajmal Dehlvi announced while addressing the 23rd death anniversary of Kh [Khwaja] Muhammad Rafiq at a local hotel on Thursday. He likened allegations against Muhajirs for demanding separation of Sindh or Karachi from Pakistan to rising of the Sun from the east.

The MQM leader alleged that the present government was not at all serious in resolving the Karachi crisis which had resulted in over 13000 Mohajir deaths and a loss of over Rs 500 billion to the national economy. He said the way the government was rejecting Nawaz Sharif's proposals for peace it seemed that it was bent upon destroying the country.

He said when the entire world was concerned about the unabated wave of terrorism in Karachi the Benazir Government was consuming its energy in victimising its political opponents and torturing innocent citizens. In this regard he especially referred to the cases framed against the Opposition Leader, his family members and his partymen.

Dehlvi who arrived in the City for a brief visit amidst reports of his meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (which he denied latter), said by having invited the MQM for a dialogue-the- government actually wanted to get what he termed a 'licence to kill Muhajirs'. "What can we expect from these rulers who had not kept their promise during talks," he wondered.

The MQM leader was of the view that Muslim League was the only political party that could save Pakistan from impending dangers provided all its splinter groups merge with the faction headed by Mian Nawaz Sharif. He went little too far in praising the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, saying among all only he had the ability to rid the nation of the crises.

**Nawaz Predicts 1996 'Year of Change'**

*BK3012141995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Dec 95 p 1,11*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif has said that to accomplish Quaid-i-Azam's [Mohammed Ali Jinnah's] mission Muslim League will start march during 1996 and it will continue till our goals are achieved.

He said this while addressing party workers at his Model Town residence on Friday.

He repeated his claim that '96 would be the year of change like change of government, system and end to corruption. He asked the people and his party workers to be ready for any kind of sacrifice to save the country from anti-state and corrupt rulers. He warned Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to hold mid-term elections without further delay other wise after three months she will not be in a position to do so.

Nawaz said that spirit of Muslim League workers have become the voice of all Pakistanis and it will help in getting rid of the corrupt rulers. He warned the rulers to avoid playing with Pakistan's future, otherwise the people would not permit them to do so and they will be ousted from power.

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Commenting on Benazir's recent statement in which she has challenged the Opposition members to resign, he responded that they had resigned and sacrificed their government despite the Supreme Courts' decision when Benazir Bhutto with the connivance of her internal and foreign agents conspired against the solidarity and sovereignty of Pakistan. He said just to save Pakistan from Benazir's conspiracies he resigned from Prime Ministership.

He said Benazir is once again conspiring against the country's interest and its people and every Pakistani is worried about it. Responding to Benazir's statement that she will hold by-elections if Opposition resigns, Nawaz reminded her that even in by-elections Muslim League had defeated the government's candidate.

He welcomed 28 PPP [Pakistan People's Party] workers from Faisalabad who have announced to join Muslim League. Nawaz said that Karachi cannot bear further violence neither economy can suffer more nor the nation can afford corruption of Benazir's husband and her own incompetence. He said the masses have withdrawn their mandate and challenged her to face them in the court of public.

Electronic and print media is not the yardstick for this purpose and the only way is to go to the people to seek their fresh mandate, Nawaz said.

He said midterm elections are the only solution to all the problems. He asked Benazir to hold mid-term polls without further delay, otherwise, the nation will force her for to it. He said Benazir has closed her eyes when hatred against her is increasing day by day.

Nawaz said now the hatred of people against Benazir has increased so much that they hoot her in her own public rallies.

### Upcoming Report on Equipment for Forces Noted

*BK0301094196 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Jan 96 pp 1, 11*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The high-powered committee set up by the Government and headed by the new Chief of the Army Staff, General Jehangir Karamat to ascertain the requirements of the Army Navy and Air Force is expected to submit its report by the end of this month after which a decision will be taken on the acquisition of equipment of these three services.

The committee was appointed to ascertain the requirements of the three armed forces keeping in view the resources constraints allocation of defence funds were known and the committee which includes representatives of three services was currently ascertaining as to the equipment required on priority basis by the Army, Navy and the Air force.

Pakistan was diversifying its sources to acquire equipment for its defence forces it view of the restrictions imposed by the United States for the supply of military equipment and spares under the Pressler Amendment.

Informed sources told newsmen here on Tuesday that "in the situation we are placed in one cannot remain in static position. There is constant search for substitutes and other options to meet the requirements of our armed forces." They confirmed that discussions are continuing with China for the building of naval ships for Pakistan Navy along with transfer of technology so that these would ultimately be built in Pakistan. Pakistan has already contracted to purchase from France along with transfer of technology, three Agosta 90-B submarines and the first one will be delivered to Pakistan in early 1999. It will be completely built in a French dockyard.

The second will be partially built in France and partially assembled at the naval dockyard in Karachi and commissioned by early year 2001. The third submarine will be completely built in Pakistan by the year 2002.

The sources said that Pakistan is studying the purchase of Mirage fighter aircraft from France for Pakistan Air Force (PAF) as well as acquiring planes from some other countries.

Likewise, they said that steps have been taken to strength the army and the high-powered committee will determine its priority requirement by the end of this month.

The sources said that France has made a revised offer for the sale of its Mirage 2000-5 fighter aircraft to Pakistan including transfer of some technology. Pakistan needs two squadrons of fighter planes for its air force but the exact number in view of resources constraints has to be decided by the committee. French Mirage aircraft of earlier version are already in the PAF.

The sources explained that Russian Federation is still considering having military cooperation with Pakistan including sale of fighter planes at the government level.

The acquisition of planes for the PAF is needed as the United States has refused to deliver the 28 F-16 aircraft under the Pressler Amendment since October 1990' although Pakistan had paid 658 million dollars for their purchase.

Since the Pressler Amendment has prevented delivery of the aircraft to Pakistan, the United States Government has been actively helping Islamabad to find a buyer for the aircraft.

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The US central commands combined military exercise programme with Pakistan involves approximately eight exercises each year and includes Naval surface, Naval air ground forces and special operation exercises.

Each year two US officers attend the Pakistan Army Staff College and one the Pakistan National Defence College. Up to three Pakistani officers attend US Staff and War Colleges each year under a reciprocal Professional Military Education (PME) exchange.

Enactment of the Brown Amendment, the sources explained will provide an opportunity to broaden certain aspects of the US- Pakistani security relationship.

## Sri Lanka

### Cabinet Elects To Apply for APEC Membership

*BK0501030796 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 96*

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cabinet on Wednesday decided to join the 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The application which will be made soon will be considered by the APEC in November as it has decided not to take up new membership applications till then.

Cabinet spokesman Media Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake who announced this at yesterday's weekly press briefing said India and Pakistan too have indicated their decision to join the APEC.

"Sri Lanka will be the first South Asian country to apply for APEC membership," said Mr. Senanayake.

### Military To Rid Jaffna of All Tiger 'Terrorists'

*BK0501030196 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 96*

[Report by Pramod de Silva — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Any Tigers remaining in the Valikamam division of the Jaffna peninsula will be flushed out within the next three or four days, Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said yesterday.

He told the weekly press briefing that soldiers were clearing Valikamam west and only a small area remained to be searched for Tigers and explosive devices.

He said a few 'terrorists' remaining in Valikamam are responsible for isolated attacks on security forces personnel. In one such instance, three soldiers were killed when a terrorist lobbed a hand bomb at an army vehicle in Periyanvilan, west of Palali on Wednesday morning, he said.

Other soldiers shot him dead and recovered his body along with weapons.

Meanwhile, the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attempts at driving civilians away from some areas of the Vadamarachchi division of the Jaffna peninsula have proved to be futile with civilians openly turning hostile to Tiger cadres.

Brigadier Munasinghe quoted intelligence sources as saying that civilians have stoned Tiger cadres who were forcing them to leave their homes in Velvetithurai, the birth place of Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The civilians are reported to have told the Tigers that they were not prepared to leave their native areas. They have also asked why the LTTE seems to think that it would be unable to defend even VVT.

A similar incident has taken place in Nelliadi, where the Tiger cadres have tried to disrupt an anti-LTTE demonstration. Infuriated civilians have assaulted the Tigers according to reports reaching Colombo.

The LTTE drove away civilians in the Valikamam division before the start of Operation 'Riviresa' which culminated in the retaking of Jaffna.

According to the military spokesman, nearly 6,000 civilians are living in Valikamam. More are returning.

Referring to the Eastern Province, he said it "will be taken care of" in due course. He declined to give a time frame for any such action.

He said all civilians coming to transit camps are screened, regardless of their professional status. "We have to check everyone, because LTTE activists do not carry labels identifying them. Even professionals have got involved with the LTTE."

He thanked the media for cooperating with the security forces to make Operation 'Riviresa' a success.

### Security Forces To Control Situation in Batticaloa

*BK0501112896 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces have pledged that they will bring the situation in the Batticaloa District under control very soon. At the weekly cabinet press briefing yesterday, Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that only sporadic incidents have been reported in the Eastern Province recently. Earlier, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had even launched attacks on Army camps. They are not in a position to do so today. The terrorists

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campaign of violence in the Eastern Province aims to instill fear in the people.

**LTTE Dispatch Describes Attack on Camp**

*BK0501092296 (Internet) TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW in Tamil 4 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sri Lankan Air Force training camp located at Pankulamin Trincomalee District was attacked and destroyed by a special contingent of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] at about 0030 hours [1900 GMT] early yesterday morning. The LTTE, which launched the surprise attack early in the morning, brought the camp under its (?full) control within a short time. As the LTTE commenced its attack, the soldiers fled and escaped, leaving behind their weapons. During the attack, four Air Force personnel were killed and 10 seriously wounded. The LTTE, which captured the camp and held it for two hours, shifted a large number of these weapons after loading them onto vehicles. Thereafter, they blasted the buildings inside the camp. An LTTE freedom fighter — Major Udayachandran of Jaffna — embraced martyrdom during this successful and daring attack. Quoting Sri Lankan Defense Ministry reports, an international news agency states that the attack was carried out by the women's wing of the LTTE and that the buildings inside the camp were razed to the ground.

In a confrontation with the Army at (Morakkottanchenai) in Batticaloa last Monday [1 January], Lieutenant Mavendan from Batticaloa embraced martyrdom. In yet another clash at Chenkaladi locality, (?2d) Lieutenant Solvendan embraced martyrdom. Our tributes go to these valiant Tigers who sacrificed themselves for the liberation of our motherland.

Dreadful contagious diseases are spreading among the displaced people, who escaped [word indistinct] the worst kind of genocidal military action by the Chandrika Kumaratunga government. Casualties due to diarrhea and septicemia are mounting. During the past two months alone, more than 100 people have died from these diseases at Chavakachcheri Hospital. During the last two months, more than 100,000 people have been treated in the outpatient section of Chavakachcheri Hospital.

As the war activities against Sri Lanka's Tamil people have been escalated, it has been estimated that expenditures this year will be $1.2C billion more than last year. Peiris, the Sri Lankan deputy finance minister [title as received], has stated that the financial burden of the war has affected all sectors. He said that because the war is aimed at establishing peace, there is no place for any questions regarding the mobilization of funds for this purpose. Be that as it may, in order to meet the expenditures for the war, prices have been pushed up, thus affecting the daily life of people. Telephone charges have been increased by (?20) percent, bus fares by [figure indistinct], and electricity charges from 25 to 100 percent depending on consumption.

An intellectual from the south has expressed his view that by describing the hoisting of the national flag in Jaffna as a success, President Chandrika Kumaratunga is inducing the Sinhalese people to support a war that can never be won, and that by presenting this illusion of victory, she has taken a step to submerge the people in the burden of misery forever.

Thanks. The thirst of the Tigers is for the motherland of Tamil Eelam.

**Editorial on LTTE's Possession of Chemical Weapons**

*BK0501024696 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 96*

[Editorial: "New High in Ruthlessness" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The possible possession of mass-destruction chemical weapons by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], marks a new, unsettling high in the terror group's ruthlessness. At a time when the real nature of the Tigers is being recognized by the West in particular, reports that the Sri Lankan government has alerted the UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs to this dangerous development, make welcome news.

Our front page news report of yesterday indicated that Sri Lanka's permanent representative to the UN, H.L. de Silva, PC, had raised the issue of chemical weapons deployment by the Tigers in Lanka's North-East theatre, with the head of the UN disarmament body, Prvoslav Davinic. Our report quoted Davinic saying that since the UN has banned the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, the UN Secretary General could initiate a probe on the Lankan complaint. Coming under the terms of such an investigation are the origins of the weapons, the harm they have caused and the types of weapons used in the cited instances.

We hope that the Lankan government would press ahead with its request that this report of the Tigers' latest brazen infringement of international conventions be thoroughly investigated by the UN. The UN should also be requested to consider what punitive measures could be taken against this barbaric outfit which has thus far fooled sections of the international community into believing that it consists of heroes of a worthy cause.

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Our report goes on to say that Lanka informed the UN that the LTTE used the lethal phosgene gas against government troops in 1990. Apparently there are also reports that the LTTE intends purchasing or has already bought chemical weapons from arms dealers in Europe.

The Tigers are apparently stopping at nothing in the pursuit of their aims particularly in view of the fact that they have suffered substantial military set backs in the North. Desperate, battered and bruised, no price seems to be too high for them if they could recover some of their lost ground. Thus even international arms conventions are violated in cavalier fashion.

With this latest infringement of international norms the government would do well to impress continuously this fact on the international community. The opportunity that has thus presented itself to further unmask the LTTE and increase its international isolation should not be lost.

These developments also prove that peace in most parts of the world cannot be permanently established as long as a thriving arms trade prevails in the West. Uncurbed arms manufacturers and arms merchants with their eyes only on juicy profits make a mockery of civilized attempts to put the barbaric institution of war behind us through international arms conventions and other instruments of peace. After all, they even consider the LTTE welcome clients.

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